DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 460 338 CS 013 280

TITLE	The White Ravens: A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature, 1994-1998.
INSTITUTION	International Youth Library, Munich (Germany).
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	394p.; Supported by the German Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth, the Bavarian Ministry of Culture, and the City of Munich.
AVAILABLE FROM	International Youth Library Munich, Schloss Bluthenberg, D-81247 Munich, Germany. For full text: http://www.ijb.de.
PUB TYPE	Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC16 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Adolescent Literature; Annotated Bibliographies; *Childrens Literature; Elementary Secondary Education; Foreign Countries; Global Approach; Reading Material Selection; *Recreational Reading
IDENTIFIERS	Book Fairs

ABSTRACT

This set of five separately-published annual bibliographies present annotations of children's and youth literature chosen for literary and/or graphic qualities to be part of the Bologna Children's Book Fair. The 1994 bibliography contains over 200 titles in 28 languages from 40 countries; the 1995 issue contains over 170 titles in 25 languages from 38 countries; the 1996 issue contains nearly 250 titles in 27 languages from 43 counties; the 1997 issue contains 275 titles in 23 languages from 43 countries; and the 1998 issue contains 253 titles in 28 languages from 46 countries. Annotations in the bibliography are arranged in 7 groups based on geographic area of the world or family of languages. (Contains author and illustrator name and subject indexes.) (RS)

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The White Ravens:
A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature.

1994-1998

Editor: Dr. Barbara Scharioth

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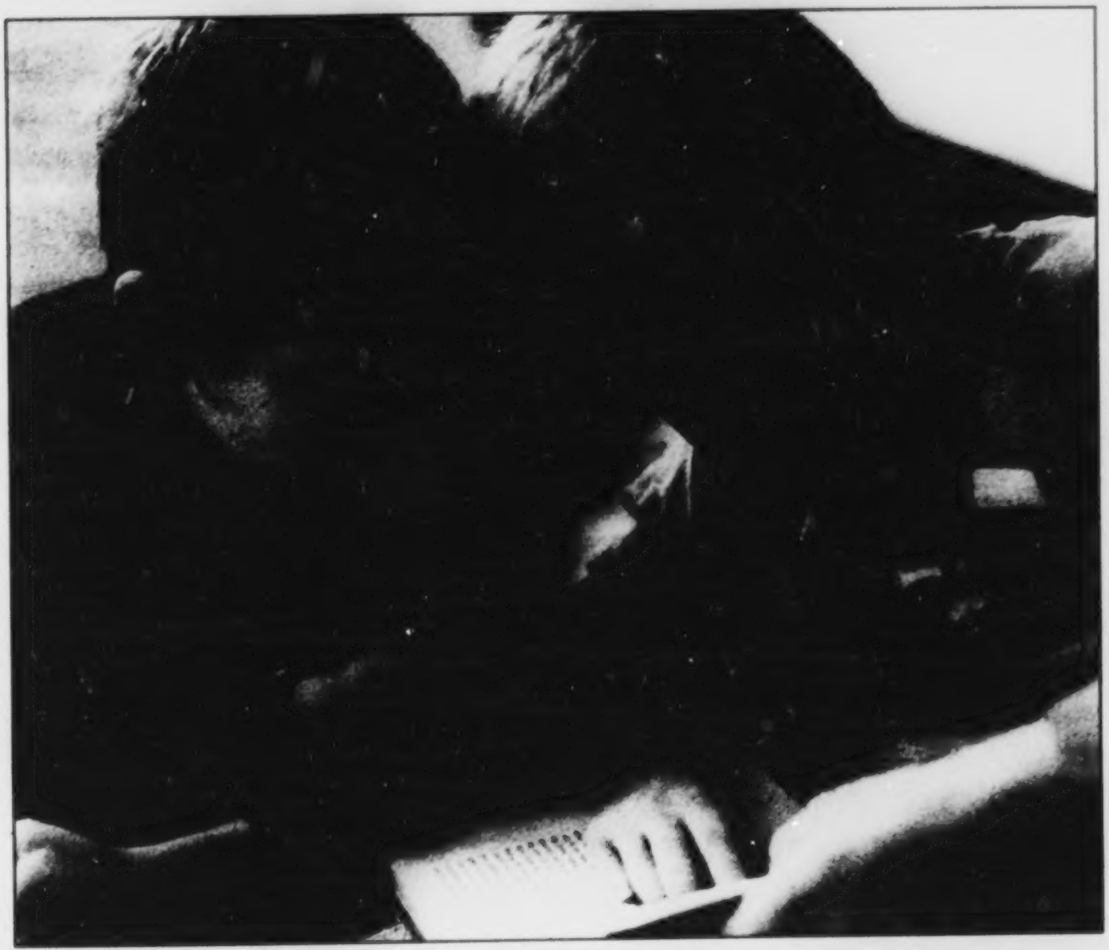

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

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The White Ravens 1994

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

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Impressum

The White Ravens 1994
A Selection of International Children's
and Youth Literature

International Youth Library Munich
Schloß Blutenburg, D-81247 München
Germany

Selection:

East Asian Languages
Fumiko Ganzenmüller (Japanese)
Dan yan Chen (Chinese)

East European Languages
Doris Amberg (Hungarian)
Gerlinde Burger (Romanian)
Werner Küffner (Czech, Croatian, Lithuanian, Mordvian, Polish, Russian, Slovenian)
Dr. Alexandra Stavropulos (Greek, Turkish, Cypriot)

English
Martha Baker
Barbara Haberl

German
Christa Stegemann

Romance Languages
Dr. Andreas Bode (Italian)
Evelin Höhne (Spanish, Portugese)
Dorothée Pfeiffer (French)

Scandinavian Languages
Dr. Andreas Bode

Other Languages
Toin Duijx (Afrikaans, Dutch, Flemish, Frisian)

Preface

For many years *The White Ravens* have been appearing in time for the Children's Book Fair in Bologna. This selection offers international and German mediators between books and children a guide to the current international production of youth literature by presenting books which are striking in their literary and/or graphic qualities. During the Bologna Children's Book Fair these books will be displayed at the International Youth Library stand (Hall 30 A28) and thereafter as a travelling exhibition in different sites.

Sections of **The White Ravens** have in the past been reprinted by individual libraries in Germany and elsewhere and will appear in 1994 in the information bulletin of the International Youth Library, the *IJB-Report*. The library will be pleased to grant permission to any institution wishing to reprint parts of the catalog upon written request on the condition that the IYL be given clear recognition.

The annotations of this catalogue are arranged in seven groups based on a geographical area of the world or a family of languages. The number of titles in each group was apportioned taking the constraints of the catalogue into account; this number was somewhat adjusted according to the number of titles submitted. In addition, the library's *Lektoren* have highlighted specific titles to which they wish to draw particular attention for the widest possible recognition - the ***special mentions***.

This selection of over 200 titles in 28 languages from 40 countries certainly makes no claim to being exhaustive. It is drawn from last year's new acquisitions sent to the IYL by publishers from around the world. Unfortunately, not all the publishing houses which consistently and generously supply the IYL with their books could be mentioned. Still, we want to cordially thank them all for their shipments and assure them or representation in our depository collection.

In conclusion, *a request to publishers*: Please continue to send us your books! We aspire to fulfil the expectation that the International Youth Library in Munich be the home of the most comprehensive collection of international literature for children and young people available worldwide.

Dr. Barbara Scharioth
Munich, March 1994

East Asian Languages

Japan

1 **Akutagawa, Ryûnosuke (text)**
Miyamoto, Junko (illus.)
Torokko (The Truck)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1993. 40pp
(Nihon no dôwa meisakusen)
ISBN 4-03-963610-4
Child - Fear - Relativity of Life
How unusual illustrations can be is show in this picture book with "Yûzen"-coloring technique and batik, colored pictures on silk crepe for a short story by the well-known modern classic writer Akutagawa. The wish of the eight-year-old village boy Ryôhei to ride justonce on a truck is granted one winter day. Immediately after that he must experience the terrible fear of being left alone in a strange place. In this way the irony of life is symbolically shown. (10+)

2 **Awa, Naoko (text)**
Ajito, Keiko (illus.)
Hanamame no nieru made - Sayo no monogatari (Until the Beans are Cooked - The Story of Sayo)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1993. 142pp
(Keiseisha wandârando 10)
ISBN 4-03-540100-5
Modern Fairy Tale/JapanNatural Spirit - Daughter
This author occupies a special position in Japanese children's literature on account of her fairy tales. She unites mysterious Nature with the reality of the profane world, whereby her tales usually end in tragedy or are marked with melancholy. This book contains six stories about a 12-year-old girl named Sayo, child of the son of a tavern owner and the daughter of a mountain spirit. Because of her great longing, her mother, transformed into wind, returns to her original world. At home and in nature marvellous things happen. Sayo becomes acquainted with natural spirits and demons and become wind, herself, like her mother. Still she feels lonely, until she is given a second mother. (10+) The title story received the second Hirosuke-dôwashô Prize.

3 **Hata, Yoshiko (text/illus.)**
Kakekko shiyô (Do you want to race?)
Tokyo: Iwasaki shoten, 1993. 28pp
ISBN 4-265-01127-6
Vitality - Nature
"Who wants to race with me?" calls out a young boy. First of all a bird answers, then a fish, then wind, clouds and rain, and finally the sun. The boy and the natural elements racing with him convey vitality, the fundamental theme of this picture book. The drama of the race is expressed in the colors and the vigorous brush strokes, which fascinate the reader. (3+)

4 **Ishiguro, Namiko (reteller)**
Kajiyama, Toshio (reteller/illus.)
Dagodago korokoro (An Old Woman and a Dumpling)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 4-8340-1218-2
Folktale/Japan - Demon - Dragonfly - Gratitude
Toshio Kajiyama is one of the few illustrators who still cultivates the traditional Japanese style of painting. In this picture book he has reduced his characteristic brush stroke, making the pictures more memorable. Even the western reader will find them less foreign. This folktale deals with an old woman who must prepare rice dumplings for the demons and is rescued from the demon's captivity by the red dragonflies. (3+)

5 **Kadono, Eiko (text)**
Hirono, Takako (illus.)
Majo no takkyûbin sono 2 - Kiki to atarashii mahô (The Witch's Special Delivery Service. Vol. 2: Kiki and Her New Magic)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1993. 400pp
ISBN 4-8340-1174-7

Witch - Independence - Identity Crisis
Fifteen-year-old Kiki is half witch, half human and thus endowed with only one kind of magic - flying on a broom. For serveral years she has been living on her own, self-supporting through her special delivery service and is much loved by people. In the second volume she has a conflict of conscience and thus an identity crisis. The story is amusing, full of fantasy and quite realistically written. The reader can readily understand the behavior and reactions of the protagonist. (10+)

6 Matsui, Tadashi (reteller)
Andô, Norika (illus.)
Oni no ko Kozuna (The Demon Child Kozuna)
Tokyo: Iwasaki shoten, 1993. 31pp
ISBN 4-265-03333-4
Fairy Tale/Japan - Demon - Self-sacrifice
After a long search, the father finds his daugher, who was stolen away by a demon to become his wife - and his captive. With tricks she manages to flee with her son and father. When the child becomes aware of his demonic nature, he begs to be buried. By his self-sacrifice, the village achieves prosperity. In this folktale the illustrator combines his own individual style of expression with elements of traditional Japanese painting. The pictures express the fantastic elements of the story in their daring coloration. (5+)

7 Nakamura, Masako (text)
Nishimaki, Kayako (text/illus.)
Ekakiuta no hon (The Songs of Drawing)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 4-8340-1169-0
Drawing - Children's Rhyme - Children's Play
This book contains six merry painting games. The rhythm of the texts yield melodies quite on their own. Following each text, simple lines are drawn in a certain order, which in the end fit together into pictures of, for instance, a girl, eyeglasses, a dinosaur, etc. This book consists not just of instructions for a game, but cleverly forms a chain story.In Japan such games are much loved by children. (3+)

Special Mention

8 Sakata, Hiroo (text)
Chô, Shinta (illus.)
Dakuchiru dakuchiru - Hajimete no uta (Dactyl Dactyl - The First Song of the World)
Based on a poem by Valentin Dmitrievich Berestov.
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 4-8340-1220-4
Dinosaur - Loneliness - Harmony - Nature - Humanity
In spite of the roaring noise of the fire-spewing mountains all around him, the giant Iguanadon is lonely. One day he encounters a brother-like creature, the pterodactyl. Although he doesn't understand the grating language, he nonetheless is pleased to hear it - the first song in the world.
Emotions are the source of poetry. Higher poetry can ultimately lead us to humanitarianism. This picture book shows connections which the young reader can readily understand since the simple pictures and brief text of this story form an ideal unity. (3+)

9 Watanabe, Shigeo (text)
Inoue, Yôsuke (illus.)
Tsukiyo no jidôsha (A Car at Full Moon)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1993. 32pp
ISBN 4-06-131888-8
Environment - Animal/Man - Friendship
An old man who lives in an auto graveyard near the sea befriends a neighboring badger family. Together they build a vehicle from parts of the auto wrecks in order to carry away the litter from the coastal shores. With

folkloric elements such as the appearance of badgers, full-moon gazing, etc. and the idyllic nighttime scenes results in a poetic story about a contemporary theme "environment." Done in only a few colors, these pictures obtain an earthy character. (5+)

10 Yanagihara, Ryôhei (text/illus.)

Kono nioi nan no nioi (What is this smell?)

Tokyo: Kogumasha, 1993. 32pp
ISBN 4-7721-0116-0
Smell

The author, a specialist in the field of information books, attempts to create an image of the invisible sense of smell by associating his own personal images of odors with certain colors. The reader can, encouraged by this book, look for odors or live more consciously with odors. Objects and odors are presented in simplified form with graphic colors. (3+)

People's Republic of China

11 Fei, Shu Fen (text)
Zhu, Wei Xian (text)
Zhou, Shiang (illus.)

Don Zhi De Mong (The Dream of the Winter Solstice)

Hang Zhou: Zhe Jiang Shao Nian Re Tong Chu Ban She, 1989. 46pp
Jiang Nan Feng Qin Re Tong Xi Lie San Wen Cong Shu
ISBN 7-5342-0514-X
Winter Solstice - Family - Celebration/China - Small Town

The winter solstice has been a popular holiday from ancient times until today. On this day, people eat a special meal with the entire family and close relatives. Grandparents tell holiday stories to children, gathered around the fire in their warm and dark kitchens. Both authors come from small towns in eastern China and reminisce about this day with nostalgia. (10+)

12 Gong, Ze Hua (text)
Tu, Zai Hua (text)
Jin, Ya Zi (illus.)

Zhu Lin Qing Qing (Green Bamboo Forest)

Hang Zhou: Zhe Jiang Shao Nian Re Tong Chu Ban She, 1989. 39pp
(Jiang Nan Feng Qin Re Tong Xi Lie San Wen Cong Shu)
ISBN 7-5342-0478-X
China (East) - Popular Culture - Everyday Life

13 Gong, Ze Hua (text)
Tu, Zai Hua (text)
Huang, Fa Bang (illus.)

Wen Xin De Ge (Gentle Songs)

Hang Zhou: Zhe Jiang Shao Nian Re Tong Chu Ban She, 1989. 29pp
(Jiang Nan Feng Qin Re Tong Xi Lie San Wen Cong Shu)
ISBN 7-5342-0479-8
China (East) - Popular Culture - Children's Play

In eastern China there are many small old towns and villages, narrow rivers and lakes. Life there was once peaceful and simple, imbued with traditional Chinese culture. In this series, the authors attempt to encourage an appreciation of this former way of life and feeling among the youth of today, who have lost or are losing touch with it.
The "Green Bamboo Forest" is an attractive book of local-style paintings shows everyday life as it was in the past."Gentle Songs" captures children's activities in former times in colorful paintings. (9+)

14 Jai, Ying (text)
Li, Heng Chen (illus.)

Hua Du Don (Flower Sunshirt)

Beijing: Zhong Guo Shao Nian Re Tong Chu Ban She, 1990. 20pp

ISBN 7-5007-1054-2
Folktale/China - China/Clothing - Imagination
Even now in smaller towns or villages of China, children sometimes wear a special kind of clothing in summer called the flower sunshirt. It is said to have gotten this name from a kind and powerful snake who lost its life while helping a child. The story is beautiful buts ends sadly, as all Chinese folktales must do. (7+)

15 Shen, Hu Gen (text)
Zhu, Bin Wen (text)
Wu, Ji De (illus.)
Mei Zi Yü (Plum Rains)
Hang Zhou: Zhu Jiang Shao Nian Re Tong Chu Ban She, 1989. 36pp
(Jiang Nan Feng Quin Re Tong Xi Lie San Wen Cong Shu)
ISBN 7-5342-0480-1
China (East) - Spring - Rain - Everyday Life
In springtime in eastern China it frequently rains. This is the time which people there call the "plum rains", when everything becomes green - the most beautiful time of the year. This book gives a charming view of this season and stories from the local area. The illustrations include pictures which won a provincial art prize. (8+)

Republic of China

16 Deng, Mei Zhen (reteller)
Zhang, Shi Ming (illus.)
Lao Shan Dao Shi (Monk on Lao Shan) - Wang Lion Lang (Mr. Wang) - Wan Xia (Evening Sunlight) - Shi Chi (Stone Lover) - Yü Qian (Coins Rain).
Taibei: Xin Yi Ji Jin Chu Ban She, 1991. 21pp each
ISBN 957-642-042-3 (collected vols.)
China - Ghost - Wisdom
Ghosts love people, they help them to get what they want, and teach them what they ought to do. According to an old Chinese saying "ghosts have a better conscience than human beings." (8+)

17 Xiao, Yie (text/illus.)
Li, Gin and his family (illus.)
Xin Qing Fa Shu (Feeling Makes a Tree)
Taibei: Huang Guan Wen Xue Chu Ban You Xian Gong Si, 1991. 24pp
ISBN 957-33-0698-0
Taiwan - Environmental Consciousness - Nature/Civilization
Set against the background of the new Taiwan - richer, more developed, more crowded, less undisturbed nature - this story was conceived by the family of the author's brother in order to describe their living conditions and life maxims - especially the need to treasure nature and encourage human sensibilities which unite rather than divide. (12+)

18 Xin, Hua (reteller)
Lu, Ju De (illus.)
Jia Zi Jiou Lu (Jia Zi Saves a Deer)
Taibei: Dong Hua Shu Jü Re Tong Bu, 1989. 16pp
(Duen Huang Gu Shi)
[ISBN n/a]
China - Buddhismus - Man/Animal - Wall Painting/Duen Huang - Deer

19 Yie, Ying Feng (reteller)
Yu, Li (illus.)
Da Yi Tao Hai (Da Zi Dries the Sea)
Taibei: Dong Hua Shu Jü Ke Tong Bu, 1989. 16pp
(Duen Huang Gu Shi)
[no ISBN]
China - Buddhismus - Man/Animal - Wall Painting/Duen Huang - Dragon
There are many famous temples and wall paintings in Duen Huang, a very old and

mysterious place in the northwest desert of China. These books present the background of Buddhism with classical Chinese paintings in the ancient style from that area. "Jia Zi Saves a Deer", the classic story of a boy hunting a deer contains the essential lesson of Buddhism - do not cause harm to any living thing around you. "Da Zi Dried the Sea" tells the story of a boy who dried the sea for the dragon king who hid his pearls under the water, conveying another essential lesson - keep your spirit strong. (8+)

■ Bulgaria

20 Karalijčev, Angel (text)
Stanimirov, Petăr (illus.)
Bălgarski narodni prikazki (Bulgarian Folktales)
Sofija: Vedrina, 1993. 2 vols.
1. 159 pp. ISBN 954-404-036-6
2. 151 pp. ISBN 954-404-037-4
Fairy Tale/Bulgarian

This is a collection of fairy tales, stories and anecdotes from the Bulgarian folk tradition, adapted by the important pioneer of the Bulgarian children's literature, Angel Karalijčev (1902-1972), in a rich and lyrical language. In the Bulgarian tradition, just as for the other Balkan peoples, fairy tales with magical themes do not have the same meaning as in middle European or even Russian regions. Much more frequent are the tales of the popular life in which magical elements, if present at all, do not play a central role. Particularly important are the stories of the Clever Peter ("Chităr Petăr"), the Bulgarian Eulenspiegel. Both of these volumes are illustrated with typical Bulgarian pictures in water color and with black-and-white graphics and ornamentation. (6+)

21 Karaslavova, Radostina (text)
Paunov, Viktor (illus.)
Trakite (The Thracians)
Sofija : Zemja, 1993. 32pp
(Detska iljustrovana istorija na Bălgarija)
ISBN 954-8345-06-4
Bulgaria/History <1200 B.C. - 500 A.D.> - Thracians

In Bulgaria, books about the history and prehistory of that country have always been very important. This simply-produced (stapled), but attractive and informative information book, with numerous illustrations and graphic presentations, deals primarily essentially with the culture and civilization of the Thracian inhabitants once living in the territory of modern-day Bulgaria. Since there are few written sources, but only archeological remains, a large part of the book covers the material artefacts such as coins, jewelry, tools, weapons, cult and art objects. Furthermore, the author reports on the first state founded by the Thracian tribes, the settlement of the Black Sea coastal area by the Greeks and the conquest of the Thracian areas by Philipp II and Alexander the Great, who however were not able to subjugate the Thracians completely. (10+)

22 Pavlov, Konstantin (text)
Pavlova, Donka (illus.)
F'oni măti krăgli rečni kamăni : Tăžna prikazka (F'oni Hatches Round River Stones: A Sad Tale)
Vraca : Budilnik, 1993. 24pp
no ISBN
Fabulous Creature

This is an experimental, mythical picture book written in free verse about the bird F'oni, who sits on stones from which winged creatures are supposed to hatch and contemplates their fate. The realization that some of them will be evil, causes him to become sad, just as also the fact that the good ones will suffer a terrible fate. The symbolic, ornamental pictures underscore the mythical character of the book. (10+)

East and South-East European Languages

Croatia

23 Laća, Josip
Gospodar od Ključa (The Lord of Ključ)
Zagreb : Znanje, 1990. 154pp
ISBN 86-313-0188-4
Yugoslavia - Dalmatia/History <1960-1969> - Holiday Adventure - Runaway
In this young adult novel, Josip Laća (*1946) takes the reader to his homeland, in the national park at the Krka waterfalls. Set in the early 1960s, a group of young boys with parental problems runaway from home in order to live in this region for a while as "Haiduks", as was quite common at that time. There they experience not only the most diverse adventures in connection with a church burglary and the filming of a Karl May film; the author also makes reference to the problems of socialist Yugoslavia and weaves in Croatian history of the Middle Ages when the boys decide to explore the fortress of Ključ. (10+)

Cyprus

24 Genakriitu, Era (text)
Pulcheriu, Elena (illus.)
O Markos mu ki ego (My Markos and I)
Leukosia: Published by the author, 1991. 78pp
no ISBN
Cyprus/Invasion <1974> - Refugee Camp - Girl - Teddy Bear
Katerina tells her Teddy Bear Marko about her life in the refugee camp where she lived before moving into a new apartment. The descriptions and opinions are given from child's point of view. Written in a clear, uncomplicated manner. (8+)
(First Prize, Cypriot Association for Children's and Youth Literature)

25 Tapakes, Alexandros
Sten ankalia tu bunu (In the Mountain's Castle)
Leukosia: Published by the Autor, 1991. 113pp
no ISBN
Tapakes, Alexandros/Autobiography - Childhood - Cyprus/Invasion <1974>
The narrator Antonis tells of his childhood in the country, about the games and pranks he played with his friend Mikes and their successful Karagiosis performances. They travel about the country, visiting the castle of the Byzantine ruler Regaina and celebrate with each other until the Turkish invasion "robs him of his childhood." The family must flee, but the grandfather chooses to stay behind. They find him later in Leukosia, injured. He dies in the refugee camp. As an adult, Antones looks back on this turbulent period and longs for reconciliation and repatriation with the land of "his childhood dreams." In a rich, often lyrical language the author describes situations, the customs and manners, and religious celebrations of his Cypriot homeland, telling stories from the past. (12+)

26 Thoma, Chrysalla
Gia ten Pyle tes Anoixes (Around the Gate of Spring)
Leukosia: Politistikes Yperesies Ypurgeiu Paideias, 1993. 135pp
no ISBN
Good - Evil - Seasons - Battle
An eventful, breath-taking adventure story about the battle between spring and winter, between good and evil. It takes place in a dream world where the ancient Greek and Medieval times meet. The author, a recent graduate of secondary school, is one of the great hopes of the literary scene. Rich, moving language. (10+)
(Prize of the Cypriot Ministry of Culture)

East and South-East European Languages

Czech Republic

27 Kožík, František (text)
Marešová, Milada (illus.)
Pohádky vánočního zvonku
(Tale of the Christmas Bell)
Praha : Nakl. Winston Smith, 1991. 160pp
ISBN 80-900217-4-3
Modern Fairy Tale/Czech - Christmas
These twelve fairy tales, which fall back upon the folktale motifs, all deal directly or indirectly with Christmas. Their narrative style, their themes and above all their understanding of Christmas document once again the close affinity of Bohemia to the middle European cultural and social sphere. The book from the Prague science fiction and adventure story publishing house Winston Smith (named after the hero of Orwell's "1984", is attractively illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings, some in color. (6+)

Greece

28 Grammenos, Mpampes (text)
Stavropulos, Stathes (illus.)
Megas Alexandros (Alexander der Große)
Athen: Ankyra, 1992. 124pp
no ISBN
Alexander the Great/Childhood
This historical novel vividly describes life at the court of Philipp II, where his brilliant son, the future Alexander the Great, grows up. His stormy youth, his lively and restless spirit astound everyone surrounding him, especially his teacher Aristotles and his own father. The high point of the novel is his taming of the wild Macedonian horse Bukephalos, which became his constant friend and companion. The man for whom "Macedonia was too small" - according to Philipp II - is portrayed so fascinatingly that the reader cannot help but be enthused by his unique, ingenious personality. A prize-winning book.

29 Epameinondas, Spyros (text)
Keperte, Dora (illus.)
Gyreuume ..ton elio
(We're Looking for ... the Sun)
Athen: Aster, 1991. 211pp
no ISBN
Cyprus/Occupation <1974> - Refugee Camp - Survival
This story is set in Cyprus. Expelled during the Turkish invasion of 1974, the refugees are given shelter in Tents. Eight children joing together and try to overcome the terrible days. The author reports their daily activities and the joint adventures. When one of them, Alkistis, emigrates to Melbourne and soon forgets them, they know that an era has come to an end. They move into an apartment, but their hearts are still filled with longing for the abandoned home. Are concrete highrises a substitute? Wasn't it much nicer before? But life goes on. This is a novel of reconciliation which looks back with nostalgia and builds on the future. (Cyprus Association for Children's and Youth Literature Prize)

30 Kliapha, Marula (text)
Kolybas, Elias (illus.)
Dyskoloi kairoi gia mikrus prinkipes
(Hard Times for Little Princes)
Athen: Kastaniotes, 1992. 254pp
no ISBN
Guest Worker/Children - Squalor - Theft - Death
Four young journalists learn that the teenager Odysseas, who was being sought by the police for theft, has been run over by a subway train. Suspecting suicide, they begin to investigate. Odysseas comes from a working-class family. The father abandons mother

and children and moves in with his girlfriend. The mother led her own life. Odysseas, a dreamy, diligent pupil, is sent to his grandmother in Greece, where he lives unsupervised and in squalor. Hitchhiking to Athens, he disappears in the underworld. Although he wants to go home, he lets himself be talked into more burglaries. While fleeing from the police, he is run over by the subway. Kliapha's mature novel is an unrelenting criticism of the generation of fathers and their greed for money. He realistically portrays the world of young adults who, too soon self-sufficient, neglected and isolated, get on the wrong track. This book addresses both young adults and adults. (14+)

31 Psaraute, Litsa

To augo tes echidnas (The Serpent's Egg)
Athen: Patakes, 1991. 102pp
(Synchrone Logotechnia gia neus - Sylloge Peristeria)
no ISBN
AIDS - Crisis - Death

The 18-year-old narrator, Stephanos, has AIDS. This novel shows how he deals with his situation. He tries to hide his deep depressions from parents, friends, and Olga, whom he loves, but it is ultimately not possible. In silence of his mind, he blames the adults for not warning him. In minute analysis, the author explores the abysses of the soul. Aside from its literary qualities, this book is a warning aimed at both young adults and adults. (13+)

32 Sinu, Kira (text)
Metralia, Sonia (illus.)

Kato apo ton elio te Makedonias (Under the Macedonian Sun).
Athen: Kedros, 1992. 176pp
(Katophli ston kosmo)
no ISBN
Alexander <King of Macedonia, I) - Greece/Persia/History 600-500 B.C.

An historical novel set in the 6th century B.C. King Amyntas receives the Persians and pays them tribute. When they assault the Macedonian women during a banquet, the young crown prince Alexander takes revenge - men in disguise turn the banquet into a bloodbath. As king, he dedicates himself to the ideals of Greece and fights against the Persians. As an old man in the now free Macedonia, he realizes that the new era of prosperity led to a loss of old friends. The author is considered a master storyteller and has won many prizes. (12+)

33 Sphakianake-Xenake, Sophia

E Puludenia kai alle diegemata (Puludenia and Other Stories)
Athen: Ombros, 1993. 55pp.
no ISBN
Wealth - Poverty - Outsider - Short Stories

The five stories in this book show children and teenagers in crisis situations. Regardless of whether it is Puludenia, who works as a house servant in a rich household, although she would have preferred to go to school, or an older sister who works after school, in order to feed the younger children, it is always a case of two social classes. The weaker ones, the disadvantaged children, who have been robbed of their childhood, get the short end of the deal. The author, recipient of numerous prizes, develops a panorama of a short-sighted society full of contradictions, which senselessly imposes suffering on all. (12+)
(Honor prize of the Literary Pan-Hellenic Competition)

34 Surele, Galateia

O megalos apochairetismos (The Great Farewell)
With Photos.
Athen: Psychogios, 1990. 152pp
no ISBN
World War I - Asia Minor - Escape

An historical novel about the bloody dispute between the Greeks and the Turks in Asia Minor. It ended with the eviction of the Greeks from Smyrna (today Izmir). Suspenseful episodes, lively dialogs, friendship and reconciliation between the enemies (12+) (Greek Youth Book Prize)

■ Hungary

35 Enrödi, Béla (text/illus.)

Krampusz-Könyv (The Krampus Book)

Budapest: Zrínyi Nyomda, 1990. 42pp
ISBN 963-02-7954-1 *140 Ft*

Parents - Upbringing - Krampus - St. Nicholas - Devil

The Krampus parents live a bourgeois life in hell and give their three children the best possible upbringing. The high point of their education is a stay abroad, when the children take a trip with their teacher to Earth. There among humans everything is much different than down in hell and thus the devil children experience a series of misadventures: fire, hunger, punishment, noisy human children. They want nothing more than to return to their parents, in hell. But then they run into Nicholas. He has been looking for them for a long time. He remakes the Krampus children into little Krampusses and ever since then good little boys and girls have gotten nuts and apples from Nicholas, but bad children find only a Krampus in their boot. The simple, clear rhymes, witty and ironical, make this book as pleasurable to read today as it was when it first appeared in 1923. Black-and-red illustrations in Art Nouveau style underline the text's intentions. (5+)

36 Vásárhelyi, Tamás (text)
Veres, Lásló (illus.)

Folyók, tavak élövilága (Living Animals in Rivers and Sees)

Budapest: Officina Nova Verl. 1992. 24pp
ISBN 963-7835-89-X *325 Ft*

Water animals - Hungary

This is one title in a series titled "Looking at our Environment", which reports on the animal world in Hungary. Not only the large and well-known animals are described, but also the smallest forms of life which children can encounter or observe. In the preface there are exact guidelines for careful observation of small, highly sensitive little animals. The picture book spreads can also be unfolded into longer panoramas, in which the animals romp around in their natural surroundings. On the reverse side, they are then described in simple, easily understood language. Environmental protection and preservation of species are an urgent concern voiced in all the books of this series. The realistic illustrations enable "young scientists" to make precise observations. (4+)

■ Lithuania

37 Valančius, Motiejus (text)
Puipa, Audris (illus.)

Mikė melagėlis
(Mike, the Liar)

Vilnius : Vyturys, 1991. [32pp]
ISBN 5-7900-0586-1

Lithuania/Stories - Pranks

The stories about boy's pranks were written by the Catholic clergy man (Bishop of Samogitia), a folk literature collector and one of the first Lithuanian fiction writers and educators. They appeared first in 1864 in a book titled "Vajkų knygelė" (The Children's Book). Contains realistic gouache illustrations (7+).

East and South-East European Languages

Mordoviya

The Mordvinians are an ethnic mixture of European and Asian peoples speaking Erzya (about two-thirds) and Moksha (about one-third), two of the languages belonging to the Volga family of the Finno-Ugrian group. According to Russian and Soviet sources, Erzya and Moksha are united together as Mordvinians, although they have different cultural traditions and cannot easily communicate with each other. The Mordvinians have been Russian subjects since the end of the 18th century. One third of the Mordovinians live in the Mordvinian Republic, under the sovereignty of the Russian Federation, south of Nižnyj Novgorod (in Soviet times: Gor'kij), where they make up about one-third of the inhabitants. The remaining two-thirds of the Mordvinians live in other parts of Russia, especially the Volga region, the southern Ural, in Siberia and in Turkestan.

38 Jurčenkov, Valerij A. (text)
Korovin, A.I. (illus.)

Chronograf, ili povestvovanie o mordovskom narode i ego istorii <in Russian>
(A Chronology or Narrative of the Mordvian People and Their History)
Saransk : Mordovskoe knižnoe izdatel'stvo
1991. 367pp
ISBN 5-7595-0489-4
Mordoviya/History <100 A.D. - 1900 A.D.>

This volume contains popular science contributions and historical stories about real and fictitious persons from the most important epochs of Mordoviya's history from is origins in the first centuries after the birth of Christ up to the 10th century. Since both Mordvinian languages became standardized only during in the Soviet era, the author of this comprehensive collection draws on myths, orally preserved tales, material traditions, archeological research and the written records of other peoples. (13+)

39 Radaev, Vasilij (text)
Vtulkin, Michail (transl. from Mordvinian into Russian)

Kak kuznec soseda podkoval : Legendy, predanija i bylički
(How the Smith Shod His Neighbor: Legends, Traditions and Fables)
Saransk: Mordovskoe knižnoe izdatel'stvo
1988. 157pp. With illus.
ISBN 5-7595-0093-7
Legend/Mordvinian/Anthology

Instead of magic fairy tales which are not specific to any nation or ethnic group, this volumes contains typical Mordvinian legends and sagas. This folk literature, closely linked with the Mordvinian traditions, customs, habits and rituals, clearly reflects the situation of Mordoviya, where Europe and Asia, Christianity, Shamanism and Islam (the religion of their Turkic neighbors) meet. Included are myths of creation, leg- ends of gods and spirits, folk etymogical sagas, sagas of Mordovian's popular heros - such as King Tushtyan, a contemporary of Ivan the Terrible - legends of men of superhuman strength, and tales of faults and foibles such as miserliness, envy, greed, and arrogance. (10+)

40 Samorodov, Kirill T. (ed.)
Popov, L.V. und Smirnov, Ju.V. (illus.)

Skazki o životnych (Animal Tales)
Saransk: Mordovskoe knižnoe izdatel'stvo
1992. 37pp
(Mordovskie narodnye skazki)
ISBN 5-7595-0878-4
Animal Tales/Mordoviya

East and South-East European Languages

41 Samorodov, Krill T. (ed.)
Popov, L.V. und Smirnov, Ju.V. (illus.)

Volšebnye skazki (Tales of Magic)

Saransk: Mordovskoe knižnoe izdatel'stvo 1992. 37pp
(Mordovskie narodnye skazki)
ISBN 5-7595-0879-2
Fairy Tales/Mordoviya

Short Mordovinian animal tales resemble to a considerable extent the Russian, but also the Aesop animal fables. The Mordovinian tales of magic collected in the other volume also reveal parallels with the Russian and European tales, often however Mordovian gods, spirits and other mythical figures appear. Although both publications are quite simply produced (stapled) and the illustrations of varying quality, the good lay-out of the books should be emphasized. (6+)

Poland

42 Ossendowski, Ferdynand (text)
Włoszczyński, Andrzej Ludwik (illus.)

Mali zwycięczy: Przygodi dzieci w pustyni Szamo
(The Little Victors: An Adventure of Children in the Gobi Desert)

Warszawa : Ludowa Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza, 1991. 144 pp
ISBN 83-205-4375-4
Gobe <Desert> - China <1916 - 1926> - Robinsonade

First published in 1930 (reprinted in 1938) and set in China during the civil war period of 1916-1926, this novel for children by the Polish scientist (born in Byelorussia), political activist, world traveller and writer Ferdynand Ossendowski (1878-1945) is a classical Robinsonade. Suspenseful, though without a deeper pschological portrayal of the main characters, Ossendowski the seven-month long odyssey of Henryk (15) und Romek (13) and Irenka (11), children of a Pole living in Tientsin, whose airplane has to make an emergency landing in the Gobi Desert. With primitive means and equipment from the airplane, the children manage to build a shelter and find food. Of course, they, too, have a "Friday" - an injured Mongolian named Čultun, whom they rescue. Čultun succeeds in capturing and taming several wild horses, which then carry them all on a week-long journey to his "aul", where the children are then reunited with their father. This historical young adult novel with his portrayal of Inner Mongolia and encounters with harmless and dangerous animals is still worth reading today. (10+)

43 Wawiłow, Danuta und Usenko, Oleg (ed.)
Czerniawski, Jerzy (illus.)

Był sobie król... (Once there was a King...)

Warszawa : Ludowa Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza, 1991. 269 pp
ISBN 83-205-4074-7 (paper)
ISBN 83-205-4383-5 (hardbound)
Rhymed Fairy Tales/Poland/Anthology

This anthology contains Polish tales in verse from the fairy tales off the great Polish romanticist Juliusz Slowacki (1809-1849) and the first major Polish children's book author Maria Konopnicka (1842-1910) through to the "Adventure of a Billy-Goat" by Kornel Makuszyński and tales of the author of children's literature classics Julian Tuwim (1894-1953), Jan Brzechwa (1900-1966) and Czeslaw Janczarski (1911-1971) up to the contemporary authors such as Danuta Wawilow and Oleg Usenko, the editors of this volume. The volume contains both very popular tales as well as less well-known, romantic and witty tales, some in literary language and others in a pert colloquial tone. The book is illustrated in the style of the Lithuanian-Polish artist Stasys Eidrigevičius, but without his surrealistic manner. (8+)

Romania

44 Batzaria N. (pseud of Moş Nae)
Pascal (illus.)

Mica Robinson: aventurile extraordinare ale unei fetiţe (Little Robinson: the Extraordinary Adventures of a Young Girl)
Sibiu: Trans-pres, 1992. 143pp
ISBN 973-9009-12-3 *199 Lei*
Romania/History <1920-1929> - Argentina/History <1920-1929> - Emigration - Girl - Eltern - Robinsonade

After the death of her mother, Mariana emigrates from Transylvania to Argentina with her father, a Romanian professor. On the estate of her uncle she learns the secrets of Nature and agriculture, as well as the Spanish language and the life-style of the natives. She is a pretty, diligent child who is loved by everyone. Although they get along very well in Argentina, father, uncle and Mariana are plagued with homesickness. When the political situation in Romania improves (around 1920), they decide to return home. During the trip their ship runs into a storm. Mariana's life-boat capsizes and when she awakes, saved by her dog, she is alone on an island. Here she manages quite well, having learned everything she needs to know on the farm in Argentina. After many years she is unexpectedly found, rescued and returned safe and sound to her family and friends. This Robinsonade with a female protagonist is written in a clear, competent and easily understandable language. A negative aspect is the passages of extreme Romanian nationalism, which could be omitted in a translation. (10+)

45 Şerb, Ioan (ed.)
Munteanu, Val (illus.)

Legende populare româneşti (Romanian Folktales)
Bucureşti: Ed. Minerva, 1991. 140pp
ISBN 973-21-0085-0 *200 Lei*
Flower - Bird - Romania - Legend/Anthology

This volume contains legends and fairy tales which have taken a flower or a bird as main protagonist, telling about the origin or exceptional characteristic of each. Usually it is people who are transformed into another state through happy or adverse circumstances. They are enchanted, conquered by enemies or dragons, punished by higher powers, rewarded. And so it is in these folktales that a world of souls is created in which each creature has its own story and is worthly of love and protection. (7+)

46 Şovu, George

Extemporal la dirigenţie (Pupils and Teachers)
Bucureşti: Ed. Jacobi, 1992. 159pp
ISBN 973-95260-7-1 *150 Lei*
Puberty - First Love - Teacher - Pupil

On the first day of school in a Bucharest school, people of various fates and experiences encounter each other. The homeroom teacher - clever and wise; his daughter - pretty, young, in love; the new teacher - with her special eyes; the good and the bad young man in love; and other new and old school classes and teachers with all their individuality. These people exert influence on on another and take course toward a happy end. The superficial plot is sprinkled with everyday psychological and philosophical wisdom. In spite of its weaknesses, the novel can be recommended for the extensive picture it gives of today's Romanian society. (14+)

East and South-East European Languages

47 Urechia, Nestor
Zînele din Valea Cerbului (The Fairies in Deer Valley)
Bucureşti: Abeona, 1992. 191pp
ISBN 973-48-0092-2 *198 Lei*
Carpathians - Fairy <Motif> - Legend

In a romantic valley of the Carpathians the fairies gather who, angry at the invasion of people into their kingdom, want to launch a punitive attack. After long discussion, they decide not to punish the people, but instead to protect them from now on. In the daytime they will help the insurregents, at nighttime they will meet with each other to report on their good deeds. But since fairies do not need to sleep, their nights are much too boring. Waiting for dawn, they tell each other the story of mankind. For seven days the fairies meet. On the last night, however, they themselves become part of their own legend and disappear forever, as insects, from this enchanting valley. The language of the book is clear, and easily understandable, though quite flowery in the style of Romanian folktales. Very popular in Romania and reprinted 16 times, but not yet discovered by translators. (5+)

■ Russia

48 Judin, Georgij (text/illus.)
Bukvarënok : Azbuka v rasskazach, skazkach i kartinkach (ABC Book: The ABC in Stories, Tales and Pictures)
Moskva : Rosmên 1992. 197pp
ISBN 5-85321-002-5
ABC/Russian

The author and illustrator Georgij Judin has created here an especially successful ABC for pre-school children. The phonetic letters are presented as animal sounds or emotional expressions. The shapes of the letters are skillfully designed and impressively presented, often in several variations. In funny stories in which the respective letter frequently appears, the characteristic use of the letters is given. (5+)

Special Mention

49 Kukareku: skazki i komiksy ... dlja detej i vzroslych (Cock-a-doodle-doo : Tales and comics ... for children and adults).
Edited by Lev Jakovlev. With illus.
Moskva : Slovo 1990. 201pp.
ISBN 5-85050-268-8
Anthology/Russian

While the individual production of Russian children's literature brings forth new and interesting works only sparingly and gradually, this first volume of an anthology from a British-Russian publishing joint venture is a true firework. Witty, naughty verses alternate with gentle fairy tales, interesting non-fiction contributions (many dealing with art topics) and funny animal tales, and so on and so forth. Young authors are included along with great names in (children's) literature, such as Marina Cvetaeva, Daniil Charms, Evgenij Švarc and Ėduard Uspenskij, to name just a few. The graphic design and the illustrations are also very impressive. The contributions by numerous renown artists are skillfully arranged in a harmonious unity. (8+)

50 Laneckaja, Elena (text)
Borisov, Anatolij (illus.)
Noč' polnolunija (A Full Moon Night)
Moskva : M & M u.a., 1992. 108 pp
ISBN 5-85729-001-5
Russian/Fantasy

In an underground world there lives a soft and hairy green creature, the Skučun, who knows of the existence of a city named

Moscow in the overground world from the reports of his ancestors. One day he sets off to see this world himself and encounters Ksenija, waiting for her mother on a night of the full-moon alone in the garden. Together they take a nocturnal journey - through space and time. In the morning it is all over. This interestingly written fantasy is richly illustrated in the style of the Leningrad Picture Book School (Brothers Traugot). (6+)

Special Mention

51 Pogorel'skij, Antonij (text) Dechterëv, Boris A. (illus.)

Volšebnye povesti (Tales of magic).

Moskva : Detskaja literatura 1992. 125pp
no ISBN
Modern Fairy Tale/Russian

This volume contains the two romantic tales of Antonij Pogorel'skij (pseud. of Alexei A. Perovskij; 1787-1836), a bastard sons of the Duke A.K. Razumovskij: "The Poppy Seed Cake Woman of Lafertovo" and "The Black Hen or The Inhabitants of the Underworld." In both tales, the portrayal of the real world and psychological studies of the characters goes hand in hand with supernatural phenomena and the description of a fairy tale world. In the first tale, set in Moscow in the 17th century, a witch has a disastrous influence on human fates, which can only be corrected after her death. The second tale takes place in a boarding school in St. Pet ersburg in the 18th century and deals with a boy, an outsider, who is conducted into the underworld by a black hen, who "in reality", is the mininster of an underground dwarf king. The subterrestials possess mysterious powers and can help the boy in many situations. Both tales are clearly influenced by the works of E.T.A. Hoffmann. This book is striking for its excellent design and the outstanding historicizing illustrations by Dechterëv. (10+)

52 Kondakova, Ol'ga (illus.) Emery, Chatherine (transl.)

Pomme mûre et plat d'argent: Contes russes (Russian Orig. Title: Sereb rjannoe bljudečko i nalivnoe jabloč ko)
(The Red Apple on the Silver Plate: Russian Fairy Tales)

Moscou : Radouga 1990. 77pp
ISBN 5-05-003210-5
Fairy Tale/Russian

This book, attractively designed and richly illustrated in the Russian Folk Art style, includes, among others things, four typically Russian magical tales which are not contained in these versions in Aleksandr N. Afanas'ev's fairy tale compendium: "The Red Apple on the Silver Plate" and "Father Frost," - two Cinderella tales, each with a different ending - as well as "The Wooden Eagle" and "The Three Kingdoms,". (5+)

53 Prokof'eva, Sof'ja L. (text) Kalinovskij, Gennadij (illus.) Cook-Horujy, Kathleen (Engl. trans.)

Raggity and the cloud (Russian Orig. Title: Loskutik i oblako)

Moscow : Raduga, 1990. 157pp
ISBN 5-05-002484-6
Modern Fair Tale/Russian - Tyranny - Water

This suspenseful tale by the popular Russian children's book author Sof'ja Prokof'eva deals with the battle against tyranny and oppression and is a call for more civil courage. The rag-girl lives in a country in which the king wants to have the only water spring for himself, walling it off, while his subjects die of thirst. An approaching rain cloud promises deliverance, but the king sends out his henchmen to find and destroy it. The rag-girl befriends the cloud and persuades other people to help it and, with its ability to change shapes, it manges to escape again and again, fooling the king. The final rescue comes in the shape of the little cloud's grandmother, the thundercloud whose lightning bolts destroy the evil king. Well-illustrated by the renown Russian artist and 1977 BIB award winner Gennadij Kalinovskij. (7+)

Slovenia

54 Dekleva, Milan (text)
Sottler, Alenka (illus.)
Bučka na Broadwayu
(Bučka on Broadway)
Ljubljana : DZS, 1993. 62pp
ISBN 86-341-1057-5
USA/Satire - Stereotype

In this satirical, highly unusual fantasy tale a brother and sister from Slovenia, Bučka and Boško Cankar, travel to the USA, landing in a world filled with detective and Western stereotypes. They are followed by Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy in a terribly long Buick, discover a starlet bound and gagged in a bathtub, who wants to give them an autogramm immediately after being set free, meet Indians and Supergirl. In an entertaining tone in a language loaded with slang, readers between nine and 99 are presented with the fully satirical mirror image of a world which, in the television world of today, is usually accepted without much criticism. (10+)

55 Makarovič, Svetlana (text)
Reščič, Lucijan (illus.)
Kaj lepega povej (Say Something Nice)
Ljubljana : DZS, 1993. - 65pp
ISBN 86-341-1229-2
Lyric/Slovenish

The actress, poet and children's book author Svetlana Makarovič (*1939), who has become popular in particular through her fairy tales for younger children over the past twenty years, has produced here a master piece of poetry for young people. Illustrated with ornamental graphics, this volume contains cheerful and witty verses about love affairs, poems of congratulations, romantic love poems, New Year poems and farewell poems. (10+)

Turkey

56 Alpöge, Gülçin (text)
Erkmen, Nazan (illus.)
Keloğlan (Proper Name)
Istanbul: Ya-pa yayınları, n.d. 16pp
(Eğitsel öyküler dizisi, 30)
no ISBN
Turkey - Fairy Tale

A retelling of a Turkish folktale for the young reader. Keloglan, a poor boy who must work hard, manages to marry the king's daughter. The tale is accompanied by excellent illustrations. (7+)

57 Alpöge, Gülçin (text)
Erkmen, Nazan (illus.)
Mehmet'in evi (Mehmet's Home)
Istanbul: Ya-pa yayınları, n.d. 16pp
City - Countryside - Conflict

It is winter. Mehmet's family lives a simple life in the country. The young boy is happy in the midst of his relatives and with his dog. One day he travels with his dog to the city. The loud traffic, the oppressive anonymity, the concrete houses make him unhappy. He returns home, where he can be in familiar surroundings and the open countryside, free and untroubled. This book is a plea for the country life where a person can live carefree in harmony with nature. (7+)

Australia

Special Mention

58 Moloney, James
Dougy
St. Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 1993. 151pp
ISBN 0-7022-2499-5 AUS$ n/a
Aborigines - Racial Conflict - Sport

The narrator, Dougy, the youngest, seemingly simple-minded child of an Aborigine family living in a small village, relates the events of one summer in which his sister, Gracey, with whom he is very close, plays a leading role. After she wins the 100m race in the state championships and subsequently a scholarship to boarding school, the white residents of the village become openly resentful. Racial tensions surface when a white girl who had been expelled from the same school is found unconscious near the river. An armed "civil war" breaks out and one person is even killed. It is ended only by a flash flood, in which Dougy helps save his brother and sister from a mysterious shadow, perhaps the Moodagudda, the river spirit in which he (but not everyone) still believes. The intricate plot has several levels which are well-developed: the Aborigine family structure, the loss of and frequent indifference to their own Aborigine cultural heritage, sibling relationships, the status structure in the racially and socially mixed village community (microcosmos), and the chances and choices which different individuals use or misuse. The role of intolerance and prejudice as motivating factors in a community is also explicitly explored. Finally, the position of Dougy in all these events is perhaps symbolic of the average, passive observer and eventual participant in a socially changing situation. (14+)

59 Klein, Robin
Seeing Things
Ringwood: Puffin/Penguin, 1993. 188pp
ISBN 0-670-84869-7
Extrasensory Perception - Deception - Death/Parent - Family Problems - Self-identity

After the death of her parents in a car accident, Miranda and her young brother Jimmy go to live with their grandmother. But Miranda is wrapped up in a world of her own making, and has trouble getting along at her new school or making friends with fellow classmates. One evening she begins to describe to her uncle strange background details and images which make him believe she has extrasensory perception. This leads her to be the center of attention for a local group of esoterically interested adults as well as for her older sister's unsavory, smooth-talking boyfriend, who has great need of her special visionary talents. This is a suspenseful tale with a surprising ending. Very subtly Klein also shows the strain, often unnoticed or ignored, which a young person experiences after the death of loved ones. The characterizations of a range of minor characters is well-drawn, just as we expect from this masterful writer. (10+)

Canada

60 Bruchac, Joseph (text)
Morin, Paul (illus.)
Fox Song
Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 0-19-541000-9 $17.95
Indians/Canada - Nature - Death - Fox - Grandmother

Although it is time to get up, Jamie lies in her bed and remembers Grama Bowman and the times they spent together. She remembers walkingup Fox Hill, learning how to peel birch bark to make baskets, how to hunt for the winter tracks of a fox. She remembers how her Grama told her stories and taught her welcome song of her Abenaki people. Then she goes to Grama's favorite place on Fox Hill, sings that song and is visited briefly by the red fox, Grama's best friend, and Jamie finally understands that she would never be alone.

The author draws on his Native American background and personal family experiences to describe in this story the importance of spiritual balance. The narrative is given an appropriate accent by the full-paged paintings by the award-winning illustrator whose naturalistic technique captures grandmother and child experiencing nature together. (5+)

61 Gilman, Phoebe (text/ill.)

Something for Nothing. Adapted from a Jewish Folktale.

Richmond Hill: North Winds Press/Scholastic Canada, 1992. [32pp]
ISBN 0-590-73802-X (*price n/a*)
Folktale - Blanket - Tailor - Growing Up - Storytelling

Joseph's mother keeps telling him to throw his blanket away - the special one his grandfather made him at birth from blue star-strewn fabric - because it is frazzled, worn and unsightly. But Joseph is confident that Grandpa can fix it, and indeed he does many times over. He makes Joseph a jacket, then a vest, a sabbath tie, a handkerchief, and finally a button. But when the button is lost, even is Grandfather does not know what more to do. Then Joseph himself decides there is just enough to make something after all.

This delightfully told story of old-world shtetl life and a grain of wisdom is complemented by a subplot that can only be seen in the illustrations: At the time of Joseph's birth, a mouse couple takes up quarters under the floorboards of the house and gradually furnish their growing household and mouse-children with the scrap remnants of Joseph's blanket, while their daily activities parallel those in the human world. The two picture narratives, painted in egg tempera in warm, natural colors, extend the simple text perfectly.

(Ruth Schwartz Award 1993)

Special Mention

62 Yashinsky, Dan (text)
Pitt, Nancy Cairine (illus.)

The Storyteller at Fault

Charlottetown: Ragweed Press, 1992. 63pp
ISBN 0-921556-29-2 *$9.95*
Storytelling - Folk literature (Adaptation)

A mighty ruler who loves stories so much that he would condemn the forgetful storyteller to death after saving the 1000 tales he has told (in the files of a memory machine). A young child who hates the fairy tales his father tells because they always end happily-ever-after -- and are thus not true, since death after all is life's real end. A tale which cannot be separated from its teller. In addition to his retelling of ten tales from the oral traditions of Japan, Uganda, Portugal, Great Britain, Scandinavia,orway, Israel, France and ancient Persia in such a way as to make a rich narrative tapestry, the author-father frames his bed-time storytelling ritual with philosophical reflections which remind the adult readers of the magic and significance involved in passing along stories to the next generation in a most compelling manner -- by the power of the stories themselves.

63 Thornhill, Jan (reteller/illus.)

Crow and Fox and Other Animal Legends.

Toronto: OWL/Greey de Pencier Books, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 1-895688-11-6 *$14.95*

Folktales - Fables

These nine animal folktales, which the author carefully chose as a way of taking an amazing journey over each continent and subcontinent of the world, are linked at one level like a chain by the reappearance of an animal protagonist in each following tale. Thus the author retells in two pages the Indian story of the elephant and the hare, followed by the West African story of the hare and tortoise, and so on, through to the South American story of the mouse and tapir. And at another level the similar tone and hue of the brilliant colors in the full-page illustrations by Thornhill link together landscapes which are nonetheless quite diverse.

■ Great Britain

64 Cole, Babette (text/illus.)

Mummy Laid an Egg!

London: Jonathan Cape, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 0-244-03645-9 £ 7.99

Sex education - Misinformation

Satire at the expense of parents - even in a hip, alternative household - is a perfect literary vehicle to convey the basic elements of where babies come from after all the old myths are presented and tossed out - by the would-be audience! Cole's slapstick watercolor illustrations first show how birth would take place if the myths were true, and then lets two children give their embarassed parents anatomy lessons and fairly explicit suggestions "for ways mummies and daddies fit together", letting "everyone else" - the reader and the whole barnyard of animal families - know that its all a perfectly natural phenomenon which need not be disguised. An imaginative and charmingly designed guide to the facts of life with enough humor to help parents get through their duty when the time is right. (5-8)

65 Cooper, Helen (text/illus.)

The Bear Under the Stairs

London: Doubleday/Transworld, 1993. [32pp]
(also New York: Dial Books/Penguin, 1993)
ISBN 0-385-402104 *£8.99*
USA: 0-8037-1279-0 *$12.99*

Bear - Fear - Nighttime

William is scared of grizzly bears and - since he is sure a bear lives there - of the place under the stairs. Worried that the bear might get hungry enough to eat a little boy, he begins to feed the bear - until his mother begins to notice a peculiar "pongy" smell. Forced to confess his fear, William and his mother confront the bear under the stairs together. The way the illustrations not only complete the text but also undermine its meaning is funny, surprising, but also - perhaps - disturbing. For there, of course, the bear is quite independent of William's fearful fantasy. The craftful array of watercolor pictures brilliantly depicting an episode of childhood which everyone will identify with. (4-7)

66 Foreman, Michael (text/illus.)

Grandfather's Pencil and the Room of Stories

London: Andersen Press, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 0-86264-457-7

Storytelling - Wood - Paper - Grandfather

On a full-moon night long ago in a young boy's room, as a pencil begins to write down his memories, the paper, the wooden pencil, the table, the floorboards, the door and the window join in with the memory of their origins in the forest and the long journeys leading them to that house, until the wind came and blew the piece of paper with all their stories back to the forest, where the animals listened to them. Soon the young boy began his journey through life and late in life he told his grandson, Jack, his stories and dreams. His memory of that moonlit night and the upright pencil long ago in the house where Jack now lives strikes a chord. Returning home, Jack rescues the pencil from between the floorboards, and at night it continues to write down its memories. In masterful watercolor illustrations which complement the narrative with additional signs of time's passage, Foreman captures the stages of this many-facetted, multi-level story of stories. (5-9)

67 Hoffman, Mary (text)
Winter, Susan (illus.)

Henry's Baby

London: Dorling Kindersley, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 0-7513-7004-5
Belonging - Clique - Baby - Sibling

Henry desparately wants to belong to a particular gang of boys at his new school, but doesn't believe he can meet their standards (or the image Henry attributes to them) because there seems to be nothing special about him. To his surprise, he discovers that his little baby brother is something special for all the other boys. The realistically drawn watercolor portraits of the main characters on white pages perfectly capture young school boys in their favorite poses and past-times, while the simple theme might spark some reflection on what it means to belong. (7-9)

68 Hughes, David (text/illus.)

Bully

London: Walker, 1993. [28pp]
ISBN 0-7445-2169-6
Bullying - Play - Aggression

The idea for this picture book story may have come after observing children at free play in kindergarten for about half-an-hour! One minute they are playing so well together, and suddenly new constellations of subgroups form invisibly, without reason. The eight animal and human characters in this skillfully drawn caricature about members of a group joining together to pick on another member. Hughes cleverly employs color, shapes, as well as various typography, boxes and comic-like action lines to suggest the tension and heated emotions which build up and explode before being finally allayed again. He also shows how this group tries and succeeds in stopping the bullying - all by themselves. A visually fascinating book which makes a young reader curious to understand the message. (5-8)

Special Mention

69 Merrick, Ann

Someone Came Knocking

Barnstaple: Spindlewood, 1993. 148pp
ISBN 0-907349-32-3
Quest - Family - Child Abuse - Nursery Rhyme <Motif>

Tod is an emotionally and physically abused child, who is rejected by his alcoholic, junkshop owner father after the mother's death, and copes with life by creating his own reality and employing careful strategies of escape and avoidance. The reader soon understands the stone which Tod feels "in his chest where his heart ought to be." Children's rhymes often run through his mind, stirring up vague memories of long-ago; they comfort him at bedtime and influence his actions during the day, too. For Guy Fawkes Day, Tod sews an odd-looking ragdoll with which to beg for pennies, but soon notices that the face he gave it was not of a guy, but a girl. This doll becomes his alter ego, singing and murmuring in his ear. The turning point in his months-long journey is the encounter with a children's social worker in a holiday home, who gains his trust and becomes mental anchor.

This is a heart-breaking novel of a boy's survival in a cruel, anonymous world. It is a well-crafted story, whose initial feeling of hopelessness is gradually replaced by a strong sense of resiliency , making it a satisfying experience for readers who appreciate emotional involvement. (12+)

70 Moon, Pat

Double Image
London: Orchard, 1993. 168pp
ISBN 1-85213-541-7
Secret - Death - Family - Grandparent - Detective Story

A family tragedy whose memory is blanked out and taboo for the parents and surviving daughter surfaces again when the grandson, David, accidentally finds a photo of an unknown look-alike. In trying to interpret mysterious clues with his newly found friend, David finds the key which releases long-buried emotions for his grandfather and mother and helps him to establish stronger, maturer relationships with his whole family. And he himself matures both socially and emotionally through this experience. The story's mystery plot is well-constructed with well-drawn characters and a background of events and places which give it a realistic everyday setting. (11+)

■ India

71 Srivastav, Sigrun (text)
Guha, Tapas (illus.)

A Moment of Truth. True Stories from Around the World
Delhi: Ratna Sagar, 1991. 78pp
ISBN 81-7070-113-0 *Rs 19.90*
Everyday Life/Child - Short Stories/International

In these fifteen short stories set in many different countries of the world, a protagonist has an encounter that changes his life or reveals to him or her a profound truth about life and human goodness. These are positive, inspiring stories which have a refreshing and uplifting effect on the reader. Richly detailed, multi-toned black-and-white sketches accompany the texts. (10-15)

■ Ireland

72 Conlon-McKenna, Maritta (text)
Coady, Christopher (illus.)

Little Star
Dublin: The O'Brien Press, 1993. [26pp]
ISBN 9-86278333-X
Night - Star - Dream

Young James finds a shiny star lying on the ground in his backyard one evening and enjoys its company, its shining brightness, over the next three days in his room. Then he realizes it is not a star for indoors and throws it back up into the sky. The double-spread, borderless illustrations are very striking for their use of color and the effortless suggestion of light sparkling with brush strokes. A prize-winning author of youth novels, this is Conlon-McKenna's picture book. (3-6)

73 Llewyllan, Morgan.

Star Dancer
Dublin: O'Brien Press, 1993. 159pp
(Horseshoe Series 1)
ISBN 0-86278-331-3 (pb) *£ 3.99*
Horse Show - Dressage - Ambition - Poverty

Ger Casey is the acknowledged leader of a loose gang of young ruffians in a poor district of Dublin. Running away from the scene of a prank one day, he slips into the fairgrounds where a horse show is taking place and has a chance encounter with a young girl his own age but of middle class background. Most importantly he is impressed by her horse's ability to dance, as the steps performed in dressage seem to be. Captivated by this new experience he stays around the stables and, with Suzanne's help, gets the chance to become a stable boy. This is the beginning of a double life for him, taking him out of a dead-end situation at home and school and giving him hope and goals, as well as divided loyalities, which are resolved only after several turbulent episodes and some soul-searching. In this novel the world of horses is treated in detail, but equally important is the depiction of social inequality and its consequences for the young. The writer manages to do both subjects justice, giving the reader pleasure and food for thought. The sequel to "Star Dancer" is breathlessly awaited. (11-15)

New Zealand

74 Butler, Dorothy (text)
Klepatski, Gabriela (illus)
Where's Isabella?
Auckland: Random House New Zealand, 1992. [24pp]
ISBN 1-86941 170 6 *price n/a*
Sibling - Lost - Family

As a second child, Isabella has a strong mind of her own and seems to know how to get her way, at the expense of her parents and brother, who are always losing her on excursions to the zoo, the farm ... The momentary solution turns out to be a compromise of sorts. The family's misadventures are portrayed in enchanting pen-and-ink colored illustrations, four frames on one page. The simple storyline ring familiar to many families and young listeners, especially those with tempetuous younger siblings.

75 Dodd, Lynley (text/illus.)
The Minister's Cat ABC
Wellington: Mallinson Rendel, 1992. [32pp]
ISBN 0-908606-86-9 *price n/a*
ABC/English - Cat

This witty picture book interweaves an affectionate look at many kinds of cats with a vocabulary of ways to describe their activities. A seemingly simple subject is thus made unendingly more enjoyable and re-readable by the diversity of aspects to be observed page after page. It is hard to resist the desire to start right over at the beginning. Lynley Dodd's inimicable and hallmark style of drawing and coloring have found another congenial subject matter which children and adults can enjoy together. (3-7)

76 Noonan, Diana
A Sonnet for the City
Dunedin: McIndoe Publishers, 1992. 175pp
ISBN 0-8868-140-7 *price n/a*
Student protest - Curfew - Kidnapping - Social responsibility

In this sequel to "Leaving the Snow Country" (1991), Penny Rider finds herself away from her home in the hills for the first time, having chosen to pursue studies at university, although she must thus give up the companionship of her new friend, a young doctor who is as much attracted to nature as she is. As befits her age, she is open to new experiences and making new friends, but is not fully able to deal with all the complications that arise thereby - conspiritory resistance to burocratic repression or the emotional attraction to a mystérious loner. Her thoughts on life, the various interests of her new friends and her probing attempts to keep a balance in her own life and struggle to sort out her own values are quite realistically portrayed. (15+)

Philippines

77 Yuson, Alfred A. (text)
Parrocha, Beth A. (illus.)
Sunico, Ramón C. (trans.)
The Boy Who Ate Stars
(Text in English and Filipino)
Metro Manila: Cacho Publishing, 1991. 20pp(CPHI Trampoline Series)
ISBN 971-19-0060-2
Modern Fairy Tale/Philippines - Greed - Stars - Trees - Peace

How a little boy who had a craving to eat all the stars he could learned to appreciate having stars in the heavens is told cleverly along with a parallel tale about deforestation by outsiders to the community, which the villagers recognize only too late as wrong and harmful. When no stars and no trees are left, a stranger visits the village, giving the people a tree to begin re-establishing their forest and the boy wisdom to reverse his error. This is a bilingual edition, attractively produced on glossy paper in broadside format, with colorful, inventive watercolor illustrations. The book is part of a noteworthy series of innovative children's books coming from the Philippine's burgeoning children's book scene. (4-8)

South Africa

78 Hartmann, Wendy (text)
Daly, Niki (illus.)

Een Winderige Aand (All the magic in the world).

Kaapstad: Human & Rousseau, 1993. [24pp]
(Also available from Dutton Publishers, USA, and Bodley Head, GB)
ISBN 0-7981-3086-5 (Engl. ed. 0-86486-248-2)

Magic - Odd-job Man - Play

Lena is the smallest and clumsiest of five children who like to play together and occasionally visit old Joseph, the local odd-job man who has a tin box of scraps and treasures. One evening he helps them discover that magic comes from within, from what you make of the things you have or are given. The simple tale is told also through the illustrations done in bright, natural colors which delightfully depict the rural setting, their childlike playfulness and, in particular, Lena's eager, joyful facial expressions. The black South African setting is well-captured, the story international. (3-6)

79 Stories South of the Sun. 28 South African Read-Aloud Stories.

Compiled by Christel and Hans Bodenstein and Linda Rode.
Foreword by Es'kia Mphahlele. With Illus.
Cape Town: Tafelberg, 1993. 96pp
ISBN 0-624-02616-7 (Afrikaans ed. 0-624-03083-0)

Everyday life - School - Family - Adventure - Folktales/Africa

Compiled by two experienced educators and an award-winning compiler of other anthologies and tested in schools, this book represents today's multi-cultural and multi-faceted South African society in as much as the authors, both newcomers and renown children's writers, chose their own language of expression and focus on contemporary, familiar situations and persons - a hard week at school, a dispute of honor at home, fantasy encounters extraterrestials or dragons, animal fables and traditional African folktales. Eleven talented illustrators have contributed striking very colorful illustrations on most pages. The book offers a rich variety of well-written tales that will have wide appeal to readers. (5-10)

(This collection is also available in Africaans under the title *Stories suid van die zon: 28 voorleesstories* and in Tswana.)

80 Owen, Phyllis (text)
Seterfeld, Adrian (illus.)

The Dala Tree

Cape Town: Human & Rousseau, 1993. 44pp
ISBN 0-7981-3090-3 *R 23,99*

School - Bully - Challenge - Tree-climbing

To strengthen his health, the city boy, Gideon, is spending several months with his grandparents on their farm in the Northern Cape. As a newcomer and outsider at school, he is bullied by Daniel, the undisputed leader of the boys in his class, until he decides to hold his ground and defend himself. On the spur of the moment he challenges Daniel to a duel: to climb the 18 meter-high Dala Tree in the school courtyard. After successfully mastering his fears in his dangerous climb, the book's well-written, tension-filled climax, Gideon is ready to put out his hand in friendship to his classmates, even Daniel. The author's very readable and believable description of Daniel's efforts to come to terms with fellow pupils, teacher and grandparents will strike a chord with many readers. (8-10)

■ USA

81 Conrad, Pam (text)
Egielski, Richard (illus.)

Tub Grandfather

New York: Laura Geringer Book/Harper Collins, 1993. [16pp]
ISBN 0-096-022896-2 *$15.00*
Toys - Grandfather

This unusual, but not implausible portrayal of the life-like world of wooden "tub" figures who make the best of things even when no child is there to play with them - by marching in parades, gardening or playing ball - immediately absorbs the interest the reader-viewer. Their daily routine is stirred up one day by the tub boy's accidental discovery of his long-lost grandfather, lying on his side, asleep in the dust under the radiator. By jogging his memories, he is finally revived and joins them again in their nightly vigil on the windowsill. The fantasy plot and the very realistic pictures of the stiff, round-headed toy will strike a chord of knowing recognition. (3-6)

82 Mason, Cherie (text)
Stammen, J. E.McAllister (illus.)

Wild Fox. A True Story.

Camden, Maine: Down East Books, 1993. 32pp
ISBN 0-89272-319-X *$15.95*
Fox - Animal Trap - Animal Instinct - Man/Animal

The author relates her own experience of befriending a young wild red fox whose front paw was nearly severed in a cruel and widely outlawed steel-jawed trap. Their tentative relationship of benefactor and cautious visitor continued over many months. In describing this period, the author weaves in many facts about habits the red fox while subtly suggesting the possibility of peaceable co-existence between civilized humans and wildlife. The realistic, warm-toned, colored-pencil illustrations capture a peaceful idyllic landscape and offer very beautiful portraits of the fox. (7-10)

83 Napoli, Donna Jo

The Magic Circle.

New York: Dutton/Penguin, 1993. 118pp
ISBN 0-525-45127-7 *$14.99*
English/Modern Fairy Tale - Hansel-and-Gretel <Motif> - Witch - Evil - Good

The life story of the witch in the story of Hansel and Gretel provides the stuff of a fascinating and stimulating novel. Set in the Middle Ages, with its elaborate class system, belief in magic, superstition, and jealousies, the tale begins when a single-mother and skilled midwife is persuaded by a neighbor to employ magic spells in order to acquire even more "clients." She learns to exorcise evil spirits, much to their dismay. When these spirits finally manage to trick her and win power over her soul, she still fights against their will - to turn her into a devourer of human flesh - by escaping to an enchanted forest. Many years later, as an aged, self-sufficient hermit, her cottage is discovered by a young brother and sister, etc. The renown fairy tale is embedded here with extraordinary skill in a much wider profounder context - the battle between good and evil. Hence it, too, can be regarded as a fairy tale inspite of its apparent realism. This is the second work by the author to rework a well-known Grimm fairy tale. The "Frog in the Pond" (19) tells the story of the prince's life as a fairly helpless and misfit frog after being bewitched and before he met the princess, his human benefactor. The humor of that story stands in strong contrast to the gravity of the witch's tale. (10+)

84 Sendak, Maurice (text/illus.)

We're All Down in the Dumps with Jack and Guy. Two Nursery Rhymes with Pictures.

New York: Michael di Capua Books/Harper Collins, 1993. [56pp]
ISBN 0-06-205014-1 *$20.00*
Mother Goose/Nursery Rhyme - Slum - Poverty - Evil - Human Kindness - Moon - Social Conscience

This book cannot be compared with anything already available for children and youth, nor is it likely to be imitated - a unicum. Even if the first "reading" - in this case looking, decifering and associating is required - seems difficult, it is well worth repeating. The borderless broadside illustrations, in characteristic Sendak style, are filled with visual details and clues of a view of the human condition, concretely that of the homeless in the slums, the dumps, of a big city, which we can recognize as New York City. The two Mother Goose nursery rhymes will be new to most everyone; they are not likely to be learned readily by children, but are worth exploring. Because of the complexity of the information and its societal implications, this book would be a stimulating discussion piece in classrooms of 9 to 11- year olds, where tea-chers can point out the use of symbolism and the books's connection with the reality.. (9-99)

85 Scieszka, Jon (text)
Lane, Smith (illus.)

Your Mother Was a Neanderthal

New York: Viking/Penguin, 1993. 78pp
(The Time Warp trio)
ISBN 0-670-84481-0 *$ 11.99*
Time Travel - Stone Age - Mathematics - Magic

In this episode of the continuing saga of the time-travelling narrator, Joe, and his friends Fred and Sam, the trio return to the Stone Age to impress the natives (and postpone doing their math homework) and lose "The Book" of magic spells which enables their return to the present. After dealing with a dinosaur, a saber-tooth tiger and a wooly mammoth, by using their wits, they discover that some mathematical knowledge could be quite useful even in the Stone Age. Their string of zany adventures parodies other time travel stories, Tarzan movies and is related with characteristic American slapstick humor that appeals to middle readers.

86 Singer, Marilyn (text)
Oubrerie, Clément (illus.)

It's Hard to Read a Map with a Beagle on Your Lap

Designed by Paula R. Szafranski.
New York: Henry Holt, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 0-8050-2201-5 *$15.95*
Dog - Poetry

This volume of dog poems for indefatigable dog-lovers and their sympathizers manages to pack a whallop of humor into every page. Showing astounding insight into the joys and, even more, the trials and tribulations of being either a dog or a dog-owner, Singer also uniformly demonstrates great wit and poetic skill in rhyme and meter. The French illustrator masterfully matches the tone and intent of each poem and the graphic designer deserves credit, too, for the very innovative use of typography.

87 Sis, Peter (text/illus.)

Komodo!

New York: Greenwillow Books, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 0-88-11583-7 *$15.00*
Komodo dragon - Komodo Island <Indonesia>

A child's obsession with dragons is rewarded one day by a trip to the Komodo Island in Indonesia, where (the author's afterword tells us) the rare giant lizard, the sole survivor of the carnivorous dinosaurs still lives (relatively) undisturbed today. Sis's visual satire of the tourist attractions on Bali and Komodo do not seem to penetrate the narrator's single-minded involvement with "his" dragon. The lush green tropical surroundings, filled with dragonesque images, demand intensive attentiveness, while the brief summative text is secondary. Thus, this is another splendid case for the power of visual narrative in a picture book for sophisticated, school-age readers. (6-10)

88 Strom, Yale

Uncertain Roads. Searching for the Gypsies.

With photos.
New York: Four Winds Press, 1993. 112pp
ISBN 0-02-788531-3 $19.95

Gypsy/Europe 1939-1992 - Multiculturalism

After giving an enlightening introduction to the ethnic group "Rom", as they call themselves, and a map of the migration routes of the gypsies from India to other European countries beginning 1300 years ago, the photographer Yale Strom lets the interviews and photos of several individuals - children and adults - in each country which he visited - Romania, Hungary, Ukraine and Sweden - speak for themselves. He also provides factual background details, personal impressions and a typical song text with music for each country, as well as a glossary and bibliography of quite recent information sources. This well-designed book is dedicated to "the hundreds of thousands of forgotten Rom who tragically lost their lives in the Holocaust" and is highly suitable for supplemental reading related to the Holocaust and to the fate of an ethnic minority in Europe today. (10+)

Special Mention

89 Wolff, Virginia Euwer

Make Lemonade

New York: Henry Holt, 1993. 200pp
ISBN 0-8050-2228-7

Teenage Mother - Babysitter - Single-parent Family - School

A "lemon," in American slang, is something imperfect or defective. A lemon is, metaphorically, how the author characterizes the initial life circumstances of Jolly, a 17-year-old single mother with two pre-schoool children. The novel is, at least in part, about what she learns to make out of it. She struggles bravely against the odds to run the household and hold down a job. To do so, she needs an inexpensive babysitter, preferably one with strong nerves, a flexible time-schedule and experience. Instead, her advertisement is answered by 14-year old LaVaughn, a high-school girl and daughter of a hard-working widow. LaVaughn has set her mind on getting to college. For that she needs good grades at school and money, which she plans to earn with part-time jobs. The uneasy relationship that develops between these two very different teenagers over many months, the touching relationship between LaVaughn and the two young children, and LaVaughn's tentative attempts to defend her own opinions and actions to her mother are further aspects of this extradordinary, unsentimental novel set in working-class surroundings. That education is the key to the future could seem like an overly overt moral message, if it weren't simply self-evident under the given conditions. Narrated matter-of-factly by LaVaughn, it is written in her own natural speech patterns - a masterly achievement by Wolff. (14+)

German Language

90 Wolff, Ashley (text/illus.)
Stella & Roy.
New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1993.
[24pp]
ISBN 0-525-45081-5 *$12.99*
Sibling - Hare-and-Tortoise <Motif> - Contest

This modern rendition of the classic fable of the hare and the tortoise rings true to the eye and ear - sibling rivalry as seen every day in the park or at play, and the intense yearning and final triumph of the younger child, the unwilling underdog. The simple read-aloud text introduces catchy phrases used by children at play while the elaborate, colorful wood-cut and water-color illustrations delightfully capture details of nature and park surroundings from the child's perspective. (3-6)

■ Austria

91 Büchner, Barbara
Irrlicht. Im Bannkreis der Sekte (Ignis Fatuus. Under the Spell of Sects)
Mödling : St. Gabriel, 1993. 199pp
ISBN 3-85264-411-9
Sect - Family - Kidnapping - Swindle - Flight - Detective Story

Letty is a victim of parental separation. She lives with her father and his girlfriend; mother and brother belong to a commune of the sect PLUS LUCIS. So Letty is pleased to see her brother again, never imagining that he plans to kidnap her in order to integrate her into the sect. Just in time they are able to prevent the plan to force Letty to fly to Rio de Janeiro against her will. Although this detective story succeeds without a complicated plot, it conveys vividly the demagogic-dictatorial structure of a quasi-religious group. (12+)

92 Ekker, Ernst A. (text)
Dreyer, Sabine (illus.)
Lachmelone und Wackelstock (Laughing Bowler and Wobbly Stock)
Wien : Österreichischer Bundesverlag, 1993.
22pp
ISBN 3-215-11161-6
Chaplin, Charlie/Biography

The color pencil drawings of this biography match the motifs of the most well-known scenes of the Chaplin film classics. In conversation with each other, Chaplin's famous bowler hat and walking stick help make the ideas and impact of the films accessible to young readers. Already published in this series are artist biographies about Mozart, Leonardo da Vinci, Camille Claudel and Josephine Baker, and more volumes are planned. (8+)

93 Esterl, Arnica (text)
Dugin, Andrej (illus.)
Dugina, Olga (illus.)
Die Drachenfedern (The Dragon's Feathers)
Wien : Österreichischer Bundesverlag, 1993.
25pp
ISBN 3-215-07862 -7
Poverty - Wealth - Love - Riddle - Assistance - Dragon - Fairy Tale/German

A handsome, but poor wood-cutter's son wants to marry the rich and equally beautiful tavern owner's daughter. Her father will only give his consent on the condition that the young man brings him three golden dragon feathers. So he sets off in search of the dragon, promising along the way to bring back advice for others, and returns home with both feathers and advice thanks to the help of the gentle dragon wife. Nothing more stands in the way of a happy ending. The detailed illustrations in the old-fashioned manner show the course of the story, filled with humorously alienated citations of persons and symbolic figures from Dugin's

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master teachers Dürer and Bosch. A picture book in which, in addition, it is fun to discover the encoded or ironical events taking place on the sidelines. (8+)

94 Herfurtner, Rudolf (text)
Smith, Brigitte (illus.)
Das Taubenmädchen (The Dove Maiden)
Wien : Ueberreuter, 1992. - 78pp
ISBN 3-8000-2367-9
First Love - Carrier Pigeon/Breeding - Return

Since meeting Mona, Malte's world has been changed. For instance, he suddenly likes carrier pigeons - because Mona loves them. When he raises a young pigeon and lets it free he experiences the pain of parting - similar to taking leave of his girlfriend when she moves away with her parents. But the carrier pigeon returns, and Mona doesn't disappear entirely from Malte's life. The republication of this text with new illustrations (first edition was published 1987 by Franz Schneider, Munich) was well-deserved. Rudolf Herfurtner succeeds in portraying the feelings of the children without naming them all too directly and thereby trivializing them. (8+)

95 Mayer-Skumanz, Lene (text)
Bors, Marianne (illus.)
Das Lügennetz (The Web of Lies)
Wien : Jugend u. Volk, 1993. 112pp
ISBN 3-224-11046-5
First Love - Friendship - School - Foreign Child - Family - Lies - Humor

Every Tuesday at four o'clock Roman meets blonde-haired Steffi to accompany her to flute lessons. And since he is supposed to visit his Aunt Steffi, who is almost a stranger to him, in a retirement home at that very time, his friend Zlatko regularly takes his place as the supposed great-nephew. Aunt Steffi begins to blossom out through Zlatko/Roman's attentions, not only because of the visits to cinema and wine cafés, but because she enjoys solving the riddle of the family swindle. The difficulties which the children in Zlatko's family (former Yugoslavs) have at school is also covered. Though they were born in Austria and don't feel a bit like foreigners, they still experience similar problems. With a deft hand the author writes a humorous, spell-binding story set in everyday life. (8+)

96 Rettl, Christine (text)
Holland, Carole (illus.)
Das große und das kleine Pfüh (The Large and the Small Phoo)
Wien : Herder, 1993. 16pp
ISBN 3-210-24843-5
Envy - Love - Happiness - Chimera - Search - Fantasy

To be happy, everyone needs a 'Phoo'. But where to find one when no one can say where it is to be found and how it looks? Latting and Letting search and search, argue with each other, although they love each other very much, and, exhausted, want to give up, when they see the two pink little clouds hanging in their sleeping tree at home - A 'phoo' for each of them. So they say. The made-up good luck charm, the 'phoo' which everyone supposedly has and needs but never shows off, didn't come between them. A story with a deeper meaning, drawn in comic style. (6+)

97 Wagner, Bettina (text)
Kunstreich, Pieter (illus.)
Vom kleinen Känguruh, das aus dem Beutel fiel (The Little Kangaroo that Fell Out of the Pouch)
Mödling : St. Gabriel, 1993. 16pp
ISBN 3-85264-408-9
Australia/Animals - Mother - Child - Independence - Assistance - Monster

A lost kangaroo child is helpless without its mother. Although the little animal is helped by its relatives in the (Australian) animal world, its mother and the whole herd have simply disappeared. With the test of courage, asking the "great Bunyip" for advice, finally puts him on the right track. After surviving all the excitement, the little kangaroo has become independent when it finally finds its mother. The best-known animals of Australia are presented in an unspectacular manner, incorporated into the story of separation and reunion, which every child goes through. (5+)

■ Germany

98 Bedürftig, Friedemann (text)
Winter, Dieter (text)
Rieger, Birgit (illus.)

Das Politikbuch (The Book of Politics)

Ravensburg : Maier, 1994. 160pp
ISBN 3-473-35589-5
Politics - Government - Civil Courage

Who makes governmental policy? Where are the decisions made as to how public life (and, as a result, private life, too) is to function. Is the responsibility for everything exclusively in the hands of politicians? How and in what ways can an individual, even a child of a young person, become active politically? The systematically researched and clearly written information book for children and young people encourages to get involved in the public debates over their interests and helps them get an overall view of the system. It provides the requisite knowledge with precise information about the structure of government and communities in a democracy like the Federal Republic of Germany. Extensive address list in the appendix enable the reader to contact directly the regional and supraregional agencies responsible for the needs of children and youth. (10+)

99 Boie, Kirsten (text)
Bauer, Jutta (illus.)

Juli, der Finder (Juli, the Finder)

Weinheim : Beltz & Gelberg, 1993. 16pp
ISBN 3-407-79104-6
Independence - Way Home - Boy - Police

Juli is allowed for the first time to go home alone from kindergarten. He knows what he is supposed to do: cross the street only on green (he waits through several green lights, because he enjoys seeing large and small vehicles all stop for him), and not stop needlessly anywhere along the way. But what to do when he finds something he should take to the police, for instance, a shoe (old)? For he has to turn it in because someone might be missing it? The policeman follows the rules. He accepts the lost article. He takes Juli with his "Peter-car" (police car) home. Surely that has not happened to anyone else in kindergarten! A friendly text with an almost broodingly precise rendering of events and the elementary pleasure of little children over the experience of being independent, trustworthy and important. (5+)

100 Ende, Michael (text)
Oberdieck, Bernhard (illus.)

Der Teddy und die Tiere (Teddy Bear and the Animals)

Stuttgart : Thienemann, 1993. 14pp
ISBN 3-522-34138-3
Self-discovery - Meaning of Life - Adventure - Togetherness - Teddy Bear

Old Teddy Bear Washable wants to find out what his purpose in this world is (he no longer belongs to anyone). So he sets out and asks the animals. But they can only give him insufficient answers since they all keep themselves and their clan alive by searching for food and caring for their young. But Washable consists of fabric and sawdust, has no tasks and cannot do anything. He's just there. But why? A little girl knows the answer: "Will you be mine?" she asks. In this way, his Teddy Bear existence once again has a purpose. A story and a painted Teddy which uphold the wish to belong among younger children and help them to see their own (usually also "unnecessary" little selves) as valuable. The story has been set to music by Wilfried Hiller for theater performances. (4+)

101 Engelmann, Reiner (ed.)

Morgen kann es zu spät sein. Texte gegen Gewalt - für Toleranz. (Tomorrow May Be Too Late. Texts Against Violence, for Tolernace.)

Würzburg : Arena, 1993. 235pp
ISBN 3-401-01766-7
Tolernace - Violence - Germany - Overseas - Anthology

Twenty-four writers from Germany (East and West) and other countries write about the situation of the Germans in Germany, foreigners in Germany, foreigners and Germans in Germany. There are feelings of insecurity on both sides, but the greater burden is borne by the foreigners. Speechlessness (which is not verbal, but rather psychological) makes the situation worse. The authors hope to encourage, even request, their readers not to let themselves be overwhelmed by the general mood of pessimism, but rather to stay alert and active against perpetrators of violence (10+)

102 Fuchshuber, Annegert (text/illus.)

Vogel Kachka
Ein Märchen aus Tadschikistan
(The Bird Kachka. A Tale from Tadzhikistan)

Ravensburg : Maier, 1993. 16pp
ISBN 3-437-33477-4
Assistance - Poverty - Wealth - Ingratitude - Betrayal - Punishment - Bird - Fairy Tale/- Tadzhikistan

The bird Kachka is one of those who want to help good people in need. A poor old fisher receives a large fish every morning from the bird Kachka because he cannot catch anything himself any longer. The fisher and his wife soon grow fatter and richer - until one day the Padisha places a high reward on the bird's head. Then the fisher betrays his benefactor. But nothing good can come of that. Bird Kachka abducts the phalanx of bloodhounds on his trail to never-ever land in the endless skies. Annegert Fuchshuber's re-telling of this Tadzhik tale is a tribute to a wonder she remembers from her childhood when at the end of the Second World War the Russian officer Nikolai brought bread and sugar and told fairy tales. Possibly it is these early texts which influenced the visual imagery of the illustrator, which in its strong earthy tones links up to the western European ideas of slavic-oriental tales (6+)

103 Giordano, Mario (text)
Wilharm, Sabine (illus.)

Franz Ratte räumt auf (Franz the Rat Cleans Up)

Berlin : Elefanten Press, 1993. 136pp
(Elefanten-Press-Kinderbücher, 477)
ISBN 3-88520-477-0
Boastfulness - Invention - Assistence - Love - Machismo - Animosity - Environment - Garbage - Dictatorship - Fantasy - Detective Story

The inhabitants of Lüchtenberg, the garbage dump of Lüchtenwald, live in a well-ordered social system. Everyone knows who his friends and enemies are, and in times of need there is a truce until the danger has passed. In particular (Dr.) Franz Rat and his assistant Miss Pimpernelle, the grey mouse, hold strictly to this rule. It makes no difference whether (Dr.) Rat's patients, such as Cat Nelson, number among their mortal enemies - everyone receives treatment. With caution, of course. Rat's hour of glory comes, however, when the meglomanic cockroaches plan to destroy all the inhabitants of Lüchtenberg. Barrels of poison in vast numbers are being dumped on the hill. Clever, tricky, and with believable citizen's courage Franz Rat and Miss Pimpernelle succeed in saving their world. (8+)

104 Große-Oetringhaus, Hans-Martin

Kinder haben Rechte - überall: Aktions- und Informationsbuch (Children Have Rights - Everywhere: An Activity and Information Book) / With photos

Berlin : Elefanten Press, 1993. 143pp
ISBN 3-88520-478-9
(Ein Terre-des-Hommes-Buch)
Human Rights/Children

The internal structure of this unsentimental, informative book is oriented around the twelve basic rights of man which are claimed in particular for children: the right to have one's own name, to equality, to food, to clothing and housing, to health, peace, education and cultural identity, to one's own opinion, to protection against exploitation, to social security. The rights of handicapped children and the right of protection as a refugee are treated in a separate chapter. The situation of children from around the world is presented in short texts, usually illustrated with photos. Suggestions for activities in one's own country are given which make it possible, on a small or larger scale, to do something, preferably with the help of schools and educators. One chapter reports on the widely unknown work of the children's parlaments in Germany and lists their addresses. Through their commitment these texts give hope to the idea that actions taken against the injustice which children experience throughout the whole world can be meaningful. (10+)

Special Mention

105 Clemens, Ditte

Schweigen über Lilo. Die Geschichte der Liselotte Herrmann (The Silence Surrounding Lilo. The Story of Liselotte Herrmann) With photos

Ravensburg : Maier, 1993. 191pp
ISBN 3-473-35129-6
Herrmann, Liselotte/Biography - National Socialism - Resistance - Execution - GDR/-Archive - GDR/History

Liselotte Herrmann was executed by the National Socialists for treason and planning to commit high treason already in 1937. She had been active in the Communist resistance. At the time of her death her son was three years old, she herself 28. In 1987, two years before the opening of the archives, Ditte Clemens, a citizen of the GDR, began to investigate the available sources - and after endless difficulties with the officials also the archival materials - about Liselotte Herrmann, who was considered a model case of a Communist resistance fighter. The official, i.e. "permissible" knowledge about Lilo was based on spotty sources and thus did not do her biography justice.

Thus with this book an example of citizen's courage in the immediate present is unfolded for the reader. The desire and personal wish of the author to make history transparent, to set recognizable truth off from the declared clichés, gave her the courage to overstep them. In mutually complementary, alternating chapters, Ditte Clemens develops the archive material in question in a fascinating manner for the reader and at the same time reports on her own difficulties in the search for truth. It becomes evident - this is the merit of this book - what kind of historical falsification is necessary in a dictatorship of any color and that only the resistance of individuals can remedy it. (12+)

German Language

106 Härtling, Peter

Lena auf dem Dach (Lena on the Roof)

Weinheim : Beltz & Gelberg, 1993. 132pp
ISBN 3-407-79614-5
Divorce - Family - Argument

Lena and Lars try in their own way to do something about the more and more frequent arguments between their parents. Lena even climbs up onto the rooftop and threatens to jump off. Unfortunately, they have to accept the fact that neither their acts nor their sorrow change anything in this conflict, and that lawyers are not always the bad guys, but in some cases understanding people who are concerned as individuals and as lawyers about the "welfare of the children." This book about the breakup of a family shows that in a conflict both adults and children are on their own and can hardly or only insufficiently help each other. Without glossing over the difficulties, the author indicates that it is possible to cope with unexpected and painful new situations with outside help. The reader is spared a view of the future; instead the lively energy of the protagonists gives hope for a better one. (12+)

107 Hagemann, Marie

Schwarzer Wolf, Skin (Black Wolf, Skin)

Stuttgart : Thienemann, 1993. 125pp
ISBN 3-522-16839-9
Violence - Murder - Foreigner - Asylum Seeker - Skinhead - Family - Rightwing Extremism

Wolfgang Schwarzer actually feels quite good in his role as "Black Wolf" with the other skins. He ran into this group of like-minded, in thought and deed violence-oriented gang at the age of twelve. The "solution" to the asylum seeker problem in Germany provides them with a goal and direction; they are not concerned about human lives. When one member of the group stands up to the others and saves a foreigner child, he is beaten to death by the gang. Full of catch words but still impressive, the author (writing under a pseudonym) portrays in the protagonist all the inner problems, brutality and lack of orientation seen among young people who have turned to violence, including the vicious circle of their isolated life's circumstances at school, in the family, and in the community, which condemns them to speechlessness. Violence in the family is continued outside of it. Blamed is once again the generation of parents who, in turn, had not been able to free themselves of their past. In a political sense the boys are mostly fully ignorant, they seek to be part of a substitute family, they want to retreat into their den, which is stocked to the hilt with weapons but also quite homey with refrigerator and bed. Right-wing ideas and ideology are disseminated and practiced by veterans of the Nazi dictatorship who want to raise the youth to be "right fellows", just as they once were. In its word rhythm the text conveys the staccato of rap - the music and lifestyle of a generation fixed on speed and volume. The readability of the text carries the danger that its content will not be seen as the negative world which it seeks to portray. (14+)

108 Heidelbach, Nikolaus (text/illus.)

Was machen die Mädchen?
(What do Girls Do?)

Weinheim : Beltz & Gelberg, 1993. 53pp
ISBN 3-407-79100-3
Girl - ABC/German

Nikolaus Heidelbach's alphabet floats absolutely free in the realm of fantasy, only the names of the girls are alphabetic. Whether the scene involves a snake with human (children's) features or a thoroughly plausible happening such as the wish to read undisturbed, closer inspection shows that each portrait involves the dark side of the dear little ones. Irmgard sits reading in a stuffed wing chair on a carpet of racing rats, probably in order to disgust the adults. Patricia "keeps an eye on her brother" by twirling him like an airplane around her (near solid iron posts). Yvonne wants to watch television and keeps a knife and cleaver ready, just in case. Boys and feeble adults (fathers) make a poor showing, serving as mere show or as objects of female aggression. As in Heidelbach's past picture books, there is nothing child-like here, rather the opposite. In so far this could be an alphabet which teaches the grown-ups to feel the creeps. Some early interpersonal, but not yet verbalized experiences are presented here visually with subversive irony. (8+)

109 Heinz, Heide (text/illus.)
Salzmann, Iris (text/illus.)
Ich schwörs bei meiner Pfote
Alles wahre Tiergeschichten
(I Swear By My Paw. All True Animal Stories)
Recklinghausen : Bitter, 1993. 144pp
ISBN 3-7903-0470-0
Animal Protection - Animal Shelters - Man-Animal-Relationship - Responsibility

Animals of most varied types who have found shelter on an estate with animal lovers introduce themselves. In spite of an often poeticized form, the texts tell of quite real and commonplace, happy and terrible animal fates which are taken seriously in these friendly surroundings - of grooming and comradeship, and of death and loss. The authors work full-time in creative professions and are actively committed to the cause of animals' rights to respect and protection (7+)

110 Kehr, Karoline (text / illus.)
Ernst stand auf und August blieb liegen
(Ernst Got Up and August Stayed in Bed <Children's rhyme>)
Hildesheim : Gerstenberg, 1993. 14pp
ISBN 3-8067-4684-2
Dream - Mailman - Punctuality

The mailman Ernst August is certified as the most punctual mailman in the world. But today Ernst gets into a dispute with August. Ernst gets up and August stays in bed when the alarm goes off at 5 a.m. Thus everything goes wrong on this day. Ernst falls off the bicycle, is bitten by a dog, and in his haste has forgotten to put on his uniform (or anything else). For all of these mishaps he naturally blames his alter ego August, who is lying at home in a warm bed. As Ernst is ready to confront August, Ernst August wakes up with a start. For the first time in his mailman existence he has overslept! A simple and humorous fable about the inner sleepyhead everyone knows. The illustrations: just as in the said morning rush, accidently smeared and corrected, but chrystal clear in their statement, with the necessary pinch of wink-eye. (6+)

111 Könner, Alfred (text)
Ensikat, Klaus (illus.)
Die Hochzeit des Pfaus
(The Peacock's Wedding)
Berlin : Altberliner Verlag, 1993. 12pp
ISBN 3-357-00171-3
Banquet - Vanity - Trickery - Fable

The peacock issues invitations to the wedding of the century and everyone comes, in fancy dress, to celebrate with him. There is singing and dancing on the tables. True to his tricky nature, the fox offers his bushy tail as a wedding table - and disappears with the food and drink into his foxhole as soon as it is served, where he lives it up for a full week "and gave no one a crumb." Adapted from a Sorbian tale, the text has been polished and interspersed with irony. Ensikat's graphic design for the text corresponds to the intent of the tale. Each illustration of this charmingly bestial show-off wedding party tempts the reader to enjoyable perusal thanks to the artist's mas-tership. The book's design enables all of the vain comrades of the wedding's host to be properly shown in the picture book world. (5+)

German Language

112 Maar, Paul (text)
Ballhaus, Verena (illus.)
Neben mir ist noch Platz
(There's Still a Seat Next to Mine)
Lohr a. M. : modus vivendi, 1993. 16pp
ISBN 3-927401-15-3
Asylum Seeker/Germany - Foreigner - Family/Germany/Libanon

Steffi makes friends with a girl from Lebanon named Aischa, after she unexpectedly helped her out in a predicament. Both girls learn from and about each other - the customs and rules of their respective cultures. And yet Steffi unknowingly offends her foreign friend seriously by inviting her to a birthday party without her brother as escort. And Steffi cannot understand why Aischa expected such an invitation or is injured. Because of the ignorance of both children, the friendship is nearly at a breaking point. Only when Aischa is about to return to Lebanon with her family because their temporary quarters are threatened by attacks and her brother is insulted and mistreated in Germany, just as in his homeland, does a reconciliation take place. Simple imagery in and for the text. This book could be used in classrooms to help examine the situation of children from abroad. (7+)

113 Merten, C. S. (text)
Greser, Achim (illus.)
Der unsichtbare Kanzler
(The Invisible Chancellor)
Berlin : Elefantenpress, 1993. 125pp
(Elefanten-Press-Kinderbücher, 452)
ISBN 3-88520-452-5
Invisibility - Germany - Politics - Humor

Just before a major political event an important personality becomes invisible. Catastrophe threatens, the German reunification is endangered. Only with the help of a magic ring, which had once decided the order of succcession in the House of the Hohenzollern, could a solution perhaps be found. The ring is looked for. (Political) leisure reading about the state of the nation, for children and adults. (10+)

114 Schwarzer, Anneliese
Grünberg lebt (Grunberg lives)
Wuppertal : Hammer, 1993. 272pp
(Galileo)
ISBN 3-87294-527-0
Nuclear Accident - Survival - Community - Nature

An unexplainable catastrophe has turned the whole earth into a death zone, with the exception of only a few elevated areas. The survivors must try to secure their living with the natural means at their disposal. Using the example of a village community, the author describes spellbindingly what is possible in this situation and how life can continue to function. The conciliatory conclusion is the discovery that in the seas living nature - at the micro-level - is developing anew and the dead areas becoming overgrown. A warning for everyone, and a thrilling book as well. (12+)

115 Steinbach, Peter (text)
Knorr, Peter (illus.)
Der kleine Großvater
(The Little Grandfather)
Weinheim : Beltz & Gelberg, 1993. 212pp
ISBN 3-407-79607-2
Transformation - Body Size - Observation

Grandfather Karl-Gustav is given the surprising opportunity through a fantastic natural happening, to be transformed into a mini-grandfather. When the twins Jenny and Johan pop in on him in the holidays, they have problems with their absent-minded or - seemingly - fully absent host, until they discover him in his disguise. And there are still more discoveries to be made by all children and adults who let themselves be transformed. How enormous a straaw is, or even a fly, when a person is itsy-bitsy small! What dangers the little ones are exposed to! What a monster and at the same time a wonder of flight the living dragon-fly is! The author's intent stems from natural-ethical and religious ideas and aims at the abolition of structural violence. Fantasy, joie de vie, and the power of imagination on the part of the (by chance) large beings (people) for the little world all around them could help people to observe more closely and to respect and protect what is living. To let one's self be transformed from big to small could occur without a [illegible] physical tricks of fantasy and help a pe[illegible] empathize with the little ones. The particular merit of this text is its humor, which pokes fun at of the category body size. (8+)

■ Switzerland (German)

116 Boge-Erli, Nortrud

Zwei Väter sind besser als keiner (Two Fathers are Better than None)

Zürich : Nagel & Kimche, 1993. 142pp
ISBN 3-312-00760-7
Family - First Love - Father - Friend

Isabel's natural father, a business man, is seldom at home and she misses him. Therefore she is pleased with the sudden appearance of Rudiger, her mother's old boy friend, and all of his desirable alternative life-style - communal living in the country, athletic, chum. Isabel's mother also feels comfortable around Rudiger. Finally when the parent's marriage threatens to fall apart, Isabel experiences her usually cool-headed father for the first time in despair. She recognizes that she doesn't want to be without him. The decision which Isabel's mother must make remains open in the book. The emotional conflict felt by the young girl is portrayed with an agreeable matter-of-course, without any noticeable pedagogic-psychological linguistic mannerisms. Everyday literature in the best sense of the word. (10+)

Special Mention

117 Betschart, Hansjörg (text)
Mönster, B. Jub (illus.)

Soheila oder ein Himmel aus Glas (Soheila or a Heaven of Glass)

Zürich : Nagel & Kimche, 1993. 89pp
ISBN 3-312-00766-6
Asylum Seeker/Switzerland - War/Yugloslavia - Death - Friendship - Rat

Multilingual Switzerland, a classic land for asylum, is an old and new homeland for people of many nationalities. And yet Salim - son of an Arab who is a Swiss citizen - must often defend himself against violent, stronger boys. On one such day he discovers a strange, bewildered girl who has hidden herself in the cellar of his apartment house. He would prefer to overlook his discovery, to forget it, repress it, because he senses that he will get into even more trouble on her account. His parents, however, demand that he take care of the little Muslim girl, who speaks no German. Soheila went into hiding after witnessing how her father was tortured and killed in the Yugoslavian war; (seemingly) minor incidents cause her to panic and she becomes unreachable for adults. Salim succeeds in reaching her through toys and animals. In the end they go to school together - until her petition for asylum is turned down and Soheila is picked up by the police in the middle of the schoolday. She flees and cannot be found. The portrayal of the tragic fate of a child, hurt by war and violence, forced to live in strange surroundings is emotionally convincing. Linguistic curtailments and gaps give the reader an authentic insight into the associative thought patterns of a child's world of picture and experiences. (10+)

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German Language

118 Klapproth, Ruedi

Tunnel der Gewalt. Die Geschichte von Milan und Niki (Tunnel of Violence. The Story of Milan and Nicki)

Luzern : rex, 1993. 116pp
ISBN 3-7252-0574-4
Switzerland - Yugloslavia - Foreigner - Violence - Family - School - Friendship - Death - Reconciliation

Milan lives with his Serbo-Croation family in Switzerland. The unloved father is killed in the civil war in Yugoslavia. But even in the midst of peace, there is no end to violence for Milan. Now the older, stronger brother wants to step into the place of the brutal father; at school Milan is discriminated against by fellow pupils and teachers. When his mother enters hospital, Milan goes off on his own. He finds an older person who accepts him and understands him, but this friend, who had become a substitute father to him, dies. Only his friendship with a girl named Nicki and the support of her parents finally help him to overcome all his difficulties. A view from the inside of a difficult daily life in multilingual Switzer land, which the native and the foreign children experience vividly - and the reader with them. (12+)

119 Ullrich, Ursula (text)
Brülhart, Stefan (illus.)

Geschichten vom Florinchen (Stories About Little Florin)

Zürich : Nagel & Kimche, 1993. 119pp
ISBN 3-312-00769-0
Girl - Family - Everyday Life - Dachshound - Parakeet (Budgie) - Teddy Bear

Events in a child's everyday life - so an adult would say. Of course, Little Florin herself sees all of her large and small experiences as highly important and exciting. And so even an adult will read with pleasure about Teddy Max, Dachshound Oscar, how Flora loses a baby tooth but doesn't throw it away, how she gives Mia, the parakeet, a burial and how she learns a judo chop so that the other children won't dare to laugh at her anymore on account of her speech problem. A cheery little book which shows with out much ado a family as a cooperative clan and even fights among siblings as solvable. (6+)

120 Wendt, Irmela (text)
Mönster, B. Jub (illus.)

Kleine Häsin (Little Hare)

Aarau : Sauerländer, 1993. 46pp
ISBN
Hare/Raising - Girl - Freedom

Nenna saves a baby hare from being attacked by a dachshound. Now she must raise the little animal since its mother refuses to care for it any longer. Much resourcefulness and care are called for during their 15 days together. At last the little hare grows big and strong enough to be released into freedom. The attachment of the childen to the little, helpless animal, their sense of responsibility and the trust which is possible between them both is the subject of this simple and moving story (6+)

■ Belgium (French)

121 Canta, Lillo (text/layout)

Rubens (Proper Name)

Paris/Louvain-la-Neuve: Duculot, 1993. 32pp
(Le musée de papier)
ISBN 2-8011-1018-3 86FF
Art Appreciation - Rubens, Peter Paul <1573-1640>

That it is not necessary to find elaborate methods to awake in children an interest for art is proven by this volume. The author succeeds giving a clearly organized introduction to the vast oevre of the greatest painter of his time. The text is simply written, the commentary on the individual pictures easy to understand. On the very first page we become acquainted with Rubens' many-sided personality. The titles of each chapter are cleverly chosen, giving some indication of the most important themes of the paintings, Rubens' techniques, his life. The exuberant vitality of the painter comes across very clearly in the numerous reproductions. (9+)

122 Chevallier, Eric Dr. (text)
Pef (illus.)

Le préservatif. Trois mille ans d'amour protégé (The Condom. Three Thousand Years of Safe Love)
[Paris]: Casterman, 1993. 45pp
(Des objets font l'histoire)
ISBN 2-203-17217-7
Contraception - AIDS - Condom - Sexual Love/Youth

123 Grillot, Marie-Françoise (text)
Boll, Dominique (illus.)

La pilule. Trente ans de liberté au féminin (The Pill. Thirty Years of Female Freedom)
[Paris]: Casterman, 1993. 45pp
(Des objets font l'histoire)
ISBN 2-203-17216-941 41FF
Contraception - Birth Control Pill - Women's Liberation

In each volume of this information book series of cultural history a subject is presented which has played or still plays an important in western civililzation. At a time when youth is confronted with AIDS, it is important to help them and provide comprehensive information. Even for this, the approach is at first cultural - we learn, for instance, that the question of contraception was already a topic in ancient times. The first named volume contains not only exact technical explanations in word and picture, but takes into view the emotional needs of youth. In the second volume, the sexual liberation of women is in the forefront. Two volumes which are genuine guides for living. (13+)

France

124 Barrault, Jean-Michel (text)
Maurel, Gilbert (illus.)

Mer misère (The Sea in Misery)
1.ed.: Seghers 1991 for the text
Paris: Gallimard, 1993. 251pp
ISBN 2-07-056734-6 43 FF
Newfoundland - Fishery - Codfish - Cabinboy - Brittany/History <1900-1910>

This story is set in Brittany at the beginning of the 20th century. Thirteen-year-old Erwann leads a barren, unloved life in the country, a farmhand for a Breton farmer. Using every possible means, he seeks to join the codfishers, like his older brother. But life on the high seas proves to be no less merciless. Erwann survives the strain of a six-month journey, hard work, envy of a younger competitor and, last but not least, a capitan who goes crazy. When Erwann reaches land, he is much matured and knows what his future will be. The author is an expert on these topics and offers considerable technical details. He knows how to convey to the reader his own passion and that of the protagonist for the sea, describing life on board such a ship without reservations. This novel can be read at one go, and leaves one breathless in the end. (12+)

125 Bourre, Martine (text/illus.)

Le palefroi (The War-Horse)
Paris: Père Castor-Flammarion, 1993. [26pp]
ISBN 2-08-160838-3 72 FF
Freedom - Battle - Horse - Knight - Middle Ages

An aesthetically appealing picture book about freedom and dependency - the horse's dependency upon man. A horse enjoys its unlimited freedom, is captured, drilled for war, lead into battle in full dress. It rears up, throwing the master off, and flees to freedom - but another human is already waiting for it. A parable which takes us back to the times of the knights, tournaments, and exquisite harnesses. The pictures show the vastness of the country, the strength of the horses, the frightful chaos of bodies and armour intertwined in battle. A picture book in retiring sepia tones, whose full beauty reveals itself only after several lookings. (6+)

126 Brisou-Pellen, Evelyne (text)
Pilorget, Bruno (illus.)

Les cinq écus de Bretagne (The Five Coins from Brittany)

Paris: Hachette Jeunesse, 1993. 250pp
(Le livre de poche jeunesse 453)
ISBN 2-01-020026-8 *31 FF*

Britanny/History <1469-1479> - Adoption - Betrayal - City/ Everyday Life

Why does the paymaster of Rennes, James Boisguérin, take in the young girl who - disguised as a boy - rang at his door on a summer evening in 1469 and asked him for help. Why must Guillemette Landais take on the name Philippa and why are the neighbors so suspicious of her? Will she grow into a self-reliant woman and be allowed to go into the profession of her benefactor? The reader follows these events that take place in city in western France in the Middle Ages with suspense. This lively written novel conveys a wealth of details about the life and customs of that period. (10+)

127 Coran, Pierre (text)
Berman, Laurent (illus.)

Le coeur andalou (The Andalusian heart)

Paris: Hachette Jeunesse, 1993. 114pp
(Le livre de poche jeunesse 466)
ISBN 2-01-019895-6 *22FF*

Handicapped Youth - Correspondence - Accident Victim - Recovery

When fourteen-year old Julien is run over by a motorcycle, he is confined to a wheelchair, unable to leave his room. To help him, his mother, Divine, invents a fictitious fellow, Thomas from Bourges, who writes him letters and lends him courage. Julien reacts at first hesitantly, but gradually the letters take on a central role in his existence. He dictates poems which reflect his moods. He shifts between the dark of the accident and the light of future recovery. A story told entirely in images and omissions, concise, even eliptic sentences and short chapters. The author has succeeded splendidly in portraying the emotional world of a modern youth. (12+)

128 Cosem, Michel (text)
Turin, Philippe-Henri (illus.)

Le chemin du bout du monde (The Path at the End of the World)

Toulouse: Milan, 1993. 169pp
(Zanzibar 114)
ISBN 2-86726-903-2 *23 FF*

Spain <Northeast> - Country Life - City Life/Everyday Life - First Love - Plague - Middle Ages

Loizu, a village in northern Spain near the Pyrenees during the Middle Ages, is visited by all the scourges - by drought, famish, plague, the wolves and last but not least the tax agents of the feudal lord. Johan, protected by a mysterious black apparition, and his childhood girlfriend, Oncha, are the only survivors. They hope to find a better life in the city of Pamplona. But the life struggle in the natureless city, which feels like a prison, is no less merciless. But Johan always finds a way, and soon he and Oncha find a protector. In spring they plan to return to Loizu with their new friends. The author describes the feelings of the protagonists. Inspite of all injustice, a strong feeling of hope runs through this beautiful novel. (11+)

Special Mention

129 Denis, Jean Claude (text/illus.)

L'île aux mainates (Mainate Island)

Paris: Albin Michel Jeunesse, 1993. [32pp]
(Les contes à dormir debout du pirate Pitou)
ISBN 2-226-05786-2 *89FF*
Pirate - Thrush (Blackbird) - Mimicry - Humor

This is the story of the feared and terrible pirate Pitou and a mainate, a clever, talking kind of thrush which leaves its home island on board Pitou's ship going to Europe. From the beak of this intelligent bird there is much to be heard. Upon arrival in Europe the thrush learns to imitate all sounds of our civilization and almost drives Pitou crazy, until he decides to return the irksome bird to his own kind. Ever since then this otherwise paradisical island has been filled with a true cacophony of the sounds of our civilization. In this oversized picturebook in comicstrip style - the author is known for his comics for adults - Jean Claude Denis succeeds in perfectly orchestrating the easily understood text with the pictures. Exclamations and commentaries are additionally placed in balloons. A first person report and nice, absurd fun. (4+)

130 Gripari, Pierre (text)
Lapointe, Claude (illus.)

Contes d'ailleurs et d'autre part
(Tales from other sides and elsewhere)

Paris: Grasset-Jeunesse, 1993. - 102pp
(Collection Grands lecteurs)
ISBN 2-246-43782-2 *160 FF*
Modern Fairy Tale/France

This author, who unfortunately died too young, is much loved in France, but unknown in Germany, for instance. Pierre Gripari has written numerous popular, headstrong tales for children. They are usually set in the French countryside, small towns, and the quarters of old Paris. Together with Claude Lapointe, a most congenial illustrator, he published several elegantly designed volumes with Grasset. This book is once again enrichened by his expressive, slightly grotesque pictures. (9+)

131 Imraguen. Les pêcheurs du désert

(Imragu. The Fishers of the Desert)
With illus. and photos.

Paris: Gallimard, 1993. - 79pp
(Fleur de Lampaul)
ISBN 2-07-058142-X *88FF*
Mauretania - Exploration - Sea Voyage - Travelog - International Understanding

The children between twelve and sixteen years of age, from all European countries and different social backgrounds who are allowed to board the coastal ship "Fleur de Lampaul" in the company of scientists for several months, are to be envied. This is their report of their journey which took them to Mauritania and the little known desert fishers, the Imragues. It is a kind of diary, with texts written mainly by the youthful passengers. They report about everyday events on board the ship, their observations and experiences, interpersonal encounters. Drawings and photos accompany the text. It is also interesting to note that the pupils stayed in contact with their school classes at home via radio, keeping up with their lessons. (12+)

132 L'invention de la peinture

(The Discovery of Painting)

With illus. Paris: Gallimard Jeun.esse, 1993. 47pp
(Les racines du savoir. Arts)
ISBN 2-07-056833-4 *110 FF*
Art Appreciation - Painting Technique

A new series of information books was begun by Gallimard in the spring of 1993 which, according to the publisher, are based on a new manner of getting childrend involved in a subject. The series is divided into subject areas such as Nature, Music, Art, Science. Paging through the book can be likened to an exploration journey or even a Happening. The designers have come up with creative ideas and employed all the resources available in modern book technology. This volume does not treat painting as an art but rather the history of painting techniques in Europe and elsewhere, the production of colors and grounds, the implementation of modern processes, the work of art restorers, etc. An index, a chronological table and biographic notes complete this glossy, multi-colored and multi-dimensional panorama (10+)

133 Judenne, Roger (text)
Maucler, Christian (illus)

Quand naîtra le lama bleu (The Birth of the Blue Lamas)

Toulouse: Milan, 1993. 107pp
(Zanzibar 110)
ISBN 2-86726-890-7 *19FF*
Andes - Indians/South America - Exploitation - Lama

Bitter poverty dominates the Altiplano. The Indian village inhabitants are oppressed by the mestizos who come regularly to the village to buy up lamas, the sole source of wealth, at ridiculously low prices. The mestizos also offer jobs in the city, and the Indians unsuspectingly sign contracts in the hope of enabling their families a better life. In the village when Federico lives the old village wiseman preaches in vain that the misery in the city is even greater than there. And yet Federico's father signs up for work. Federico wants to save the herd of lamas which his father has turned over to him. He flees to the mountains, where a blue lama is born. An Indian legend says that this heralds the beginning of a better future. In short, impressive sentences the author succeeds in describing the oppressive atmosphere, the unending misery, the ignorance of the resigned Indians, as well as their love for their barren surroundings. It is a novel about a revolt, of which Federico becomes the unwilling leader. (9+)

134 Lenain, Thierry (text)

Un pacte avec le diable (A Pact with the Devil)

Paris, Syros, 1993. 75pp
1st ed.: Syros, 1988 (croche patte)
ISBN 2-867-38894-5 *39FF*
Drug Addiction - Runaway - Friendship - Divorce

Because she cannot stand her step-father, twelve-year old Roxanne leaves home one night after a fight. She tries in vain to reach her father and his new girlfriend and meets instead David, who takes her in. She discovers that he is a drug addict - sometimes happy, sometimes sad and remote. For several days they live together like brother and sister - she an active, life-affirming element, he doomed to self-destruction. Returning one day after shopping, she finds David dead on the couch. Roxanne flees and collapses, unconscious, in the arms of her father's girlfriend, who nurses her back to health. Roxanne is able to stay on with them. Roxanne tells her story in the first person in a naturally witty language. Her view of events is at the same time child-like and precocious. The way she meets David, how she tries to drag him out of his hellish world, her experience with her newly developing womanhood, and her determination not to be dragged down, speak to the heart. (11+)
Prix Sorcières 1989 from the French Booksellers

135 Massin/Les chats pelés (text/illus.)

Jouons avec les chiffres
(Let's Play with Numbers)
Paris: Seuil Jeunesse, 1993. [18pp]
ISBN 2-02-020002-3 *85 FF*
Number - Counting System

Playfully, but still in earnest, this over-sized information book introduces and explains numbers and counting systems of different peoples from ancient times up to today. A wonderful pretext for a group of talented young graphic artists, under the guidance of a well-known artist, to demonstrate their wealth of ideas and talent for graphic mise en scène. There is much here to study and to try out on one's own. (8+)

136 Mingarelli, Hubert (text)

La lumière volée (The Stolen Light)
Paris: Gallimard, 1993. 121pp
(page blanche)
ISBN 2-07-058160-8 *59 FF*
Poland - National Socialism - Persecution/Jew - Survival - Friendship - Cemetery

In a town near Warsaw, eleven-year old Elie finds refuge from his Nazi-SS pursuers in a cemetery in the Jewish ghetto. Setting up camp in front of the grave of Joseph Cytrin, he confides his fears and discoveries to Joseph, and also writes poems which he memorizes. One day he is joined by a somewhat older boy, Gad, who deals in the black market and clearly feels superior to Elie. Every evening Elie goes off to eat, getting a little warmth from a sympathetic waitress, and also supplying Gad with food. Elie's monologue at the grave, the scanty dialogues of the two youth against the ever-present danger make up this short tale. Elie and Gad create an imaginary world which, because they forget their surroundings for a short time, ultimately leads to their deaths. The author has succeeded in transporting tragic events to a poetic level, making an all the stronger impression on the reader. (15+)

137 Pommaux, Yvan (text/illus.)

John Chatterton détective
(John Chatterton, Detective)
Paris: L'Ecole des loisirs, 1993. [20pp]
ISBN 2- 211 03245-1 *78FF*
Little Red Riding Hood <Motif> - Cat - Wolf - Art Collector - Detective Story

Fairy tale motifs inspire children's and youth book authors to ever new variations. In this illustrated variation on the Little Red Riding Hood story, an smartly dressed cat is called upon in his detective office by an elegant young lady dressed in the style of the Twenties who begs him to find her vanished daughter. Identification aid: the daughter is dressed all in red. The dective John Chatterton vaguely remembers a wolf story and sets off. Along the way, he encounters various pieces of red clothing, which lead him to the right address. This time the wolf appears as an art connoisseur, his walls covered with wolf portraits by famous painters. The bound-and-gagged Riding Hood is used as bait for a further painting. The remarkable feature of this long-sided book are the half-side, full-side and double-side illustrations which give the detective chase a suspensful atmosphere. They are filled with subtle references to famous art works, comic strip figures, and earlier picture books by the author himself. (5+)
Sélection Livrimages 1993

■ Canada (French)

138 Côté, Denis (text)
Poulin, Stéphane (illus)

Le parc aux sortilèges
(The Bewitched Amusement Park)
Montréal: La courte échelle, 1994. 91pp
(Roman jeunesse 46)
ISBN 2-89021-210-6
Québec - Amusement Park - Magic - Science Fiction

Maxime describes his visit to Luna Park with his parents and two friends, the delicate Jo and the sturdy Pouce. When the three friends step back out of the Halls of Mirrors, nothing is the same as it was - parents and mirrors have disappeared. The amusement park has grown unending, a horde of pleasure seekers jam all the aisles. Searching for the exit, Maxime, Jo and Pounce encounter strange figures. A green mask seems to have some significance. Suddenly Maxime realizes what is expected of them. They must say "yes" and each must agree to embark on a life-threatening adventure. After surviving the three-fold test of courage, they stand again close to where they began. The candy-seller explains the deeper meaning of this "cosmic game" to them. The authors knows how to create suspense. From funny-grotesque to spooky encounters pave the way to deliverance. (9+)

139 Gagnon, Cécile (text)
Poupart, Roger (text)
Soulières, Robert (text)
Poulin, Stéphane (illus.)
Liberté surveillée (Freedom under Surveillance)
Montréal: Paulines, 1993. 141pp
(Lectures VIP 12)
ISBN 2-89420-183-4
Canada - Zoo/Hemmingford <Canada> - Freedom

Three well-known children's and youth book authors are responsible for this "six-handed" novel, alternately writing its ten chapters. A school class makes their annual field trip to the Safari Zoo near Hemmingford. Gabriel, whose father sits wrongly in prison, cannot stand to see animals, especially ponies, in captivity. Other animals, too, benefit then from his secret night-time liberation act. Will he be sent to prison for his deed? A dying goat kid makes him aware of his helplessness. He meets Nancy, who had helps him to hide the whole menagerie in her parent's barn. When Gabriel tries to return the animals to the zoo, he is caught, but thanks to the aid of his mother and his friends, is soon released again. The zoo director promises to build larger enclosures for the animals. The precipitous events will undoubtedly correspond to the secret wishes of young readers. (9+)

Special Mention

140 Demers, Dominique (text)
Les grand sapins ne meurent jamais (The Evergreens Will Never Die)
Montréal: Québec/Amérique, 1993. 154pp
(Titan jeunesse 17)
ISBN 2-89037-627-3
Death - Mother - Daughter - First Love - Pregnancy

The first volume of this planned trilogy already received unanimous applause from the critics. It told the story of the cancer death of the protagonist's mother. In the second volume we follow the mourning period of 15-year old Marie-Lune and how she finds comfort and support from her friend Antoine. One day she discovers that she is pregnant. Should she have the baby? Antoine, who is actually too inexperienced to be of permanent help, sees no problems to a future life together. Should she give up her child for adoption? She finds no adoptive parents who please her and decides to keep her son. The novel ends with a description of the birth, which we follow through Marie-Lune's feelings and impressions. The interesting feature of this moving and gentle novel is the psychological maturing process of the figures and their ability to go new ways. The author brings closer the confusion of conflicting feelings and Marie-Lune's sensibilities with both tact and humor. (13+)
Prix 12/17 Brive-Montréal 1993
Governor General's Prize 1993

141 Mativat, Marie-Andrée (text)
Mativat, Geneviève (text)
Bienvenue, Diane (illus.)
Togo (Proper Name)
Montréal: Tisseyre, 1993. 95pp
(Papillon)
ISBN 2-89051-502-8 *$7.95*
Alaska/History 1907-1927 - Sledding - Sleddog - Diphteria - Icebound

Two authentic, but completely independent events inspired the authors to write this interesting adventure novel. In 1907 the girls and boys of Nome, Alaska, organized the first dog sled race for Whites. In 1925 Léonhard Seppala braved the 1,000 km stretch of Alaska's icy desert with his sleddogs in order to bring the life-saving serum to the children of Nome who where dying of diphteria. "Togo" is the story of Seppala's legendary lead dog, who gives us a lesson of courage and endurance. (8+)

142 Sernine, Daniel (text)
La couleur nouvelle (The Unknown Color)
Montréal: Québec/Amérique Jeunesse, 1993. 154pp (Clip 9)
ISBN 2-89037-629-X *$7.95*
Fantasy - Horror Story

This collection of nine stories by the productive and creative master of fantastic literature who writes for adults, youth and children. These stories, with one exception, are shortened or re-written versions of fairy tales from "Les contes de l'ombre" (Tales From the Shadows") from 1979. The author is skilled at creating a spooky, mysterious, even creepy mood and has no difficulty with precise descriptions of the gruesom, as evidenced in the story "Derrière le miroir". "L'éternelle vieillesse" deals with an immobile group of very old people who perform the same activities day for day, decade for decade. The young intruder who, as an observer, hopes to discover their secret, has just enough strength left on the third day to realize that he, too, is now a captive of this eternal sequence. In this new edition Daniel Sernine has avoided his predilection for wordy descriptions, thereby increasing the suspense. (12+)

Switzerland (French)

143 Chauvy, Laurence (text)
Ardalan, Haydé (illus.)
Edgar Degas (Proper Name)
Genève: La Joie de lire, 1993. 32pp
(Chat-Musée)
ISBN 2-88258-030-4
Art Appreciation - Cat - Edgar Degas <1834-1917>

The great painter Edgar Degas as seen from a cat's point of view. This bizarre idea and certainly uncommon perspective of his oevre do not lead to absurd observations but rather illuminating descriptions of what is to be seen in the pictures. The cat narrates, self-importantly weaving in comments on her own welfare and her personal observations. On each double-page spread there is on the right a painting or sculpture, on the left the text and a drawing of the cat in an appropriate pose. (9+)

Italy

144 Baldassarri, Guido (text)
Maggioni, Federico (illus.)
Olleitlas che parlava all'incontrario (Olleitlas, Who Spoke Backwards)
Milano : Mondadori, 1992. 102 S.
(junior + 10; 29)
ISBN 88-04-35798-3
Child - Abduction - Adventure

Ever since Saltiello (Olleitlas) had a fall, he speaks words the other way around, is captured by a collector of monsters, and is pursued by the dog-man Dogherman halfway around the world. After many grotesque adventures, he finally lands at home again. This ingenious story is accompanied by equally unusual, graphically remarkable black-and-white illustrations. (10+)

145 Carpi, Pinin (text)
Rescaldani, Marilena (illus.)

I lupi di mare della Grande Luna (The Water Rats of the "G. L.)
Milano : A. Vallardi, 1992. 140 S.
ISBN 88-11-97335-X
Ship Travel - Orphan - Magic - Adventure

The three-master, of which Beppe is - against his will - captain, is an island of happiness for many children thanks to two magicians who want to save them all from landing in an orphanage. Travelling and fleeing from port to port, they experience the strangest adventures and hear the most unusual stories. This fantastic book of adventures, written by one of the renown Italian writers for children, is illustrated with delicately drawn black-and-white illustrations and colored, striking, artistically demanding full-sized pictures. (10+)

146 Chiusano, Italo Alighiero

La banda di Pipin Bertuccia (Pipin Bertuccia's Gang)
Casale Monferrato : Piemme, 1993. 174 S.
ISBN 88-384-1888-8
Orphan - Village - Youth Gang - Everyday Life

This well-known author first told his own children this story about the 11-year-old Pipino, the orphan, who lives with his bird Bràcola, his dog Fefo and his grandmother in the country, about his daily life and his adventure with his friends. Now he is put it down in his first book for children. It is a pleasure to follow the classic style story, beginning with the introduction of the persons and their world, which takes its lessons from Collodi. (12+)

147 Lodi, Mario (text)
Costa, Nicoletta (ill.)

Il soldatino del pim pum pà : poesie, filastrocche, favole (The Soldier of Pim-pum-pa: Poems, Rhymes and Tales)
Trieste : Einaudi Ragazzi, 1993. 67 S.
(Einaudi Ragazzi / Storie e rime; 6)
ISBN 88-7926-098-7
Italien/Lyric - Peace - Justice - Democracy

Enchanting poems and short tales which deal with peace and true democracy, gathered together in a paperback with handsome illustrations. (8+)

148 Nanetti, Angela (text)
Nidasio, Grazia (illus.)

Veronica ovvero "I gatti sono talmente imprebedibili!" Veronika oder "Die Katzen sind alle unberechenbar!") (Veronica or "Cats are all unpredictable)
Trieste: Emme, 1993. 94pp
ISBN 88-7927-156-3
Girl - Family - Cat

Nine-year-old Veronika, furnished with an intolerable older sister, an unfaithful lover, relatively normal parents and a wonderful cat needs to adjust to her surroundings and establish her role in them. How she manages this is told by a frequent prize-winning author from the perspective of the heroine in a humorous, readable but yet discriminating language. (8+)

149 Parmeggiano, Maria Laura

Il segreto del calicanto : una vita per la libertà (The Secret of the Spice Bouquet: A Life for Freedom)
Bergamo : Janus, 1993. 138 S.
o. ISBN
Italy/Occupation - Resistenza Bergamasca <1943-1945>

This historical novel tells of the resistance of the Italians against the German occupation after 1943, the "Resistenza Bergamasca", and its young heroine Adriana Locatelli in a fascinating manner. (12)

150 Pitzorno, Bianca (text)
Blake, Quentin (illus.)
Polissena del Porcello (Polissena with the Piglet)
Milano : Mondadori, 1993. 278 S.
ISBN 88-04-37195-1
Girl - Adoption - Parent/Search - Identity crisis

Adopting a boy's name, Polissena sets off to find her real parents. She is accompanied by the little vagabond Lucrezia and her trained animals, including a little pig. They fall into a society of the strangest varied people who all have something either clarifying or confusing to tell about Polissena's past. This novel is written in a clear, but not simple language, in which one surprise follows after the next; in addition, the publisher found it appropriate to commission one of the best English illustrators - Quentin Blake! (12+)

151 Piumini, Roberto (reteller)
Bosnia, Nella (illus.)
Giulietta e Romeo : da William Shakespeare
(Julia and Romeo; adapted from W. Shakespeare)
Trieste : Einaudi Ragazzi, 1992. 124 S.
(Einaudi Ragazzi / Narrativa; 1)
ISBN 88-7926-079-0
Romeo and Julia (retelling)

Julia's name is intentionally place first in the title, deviating from Shakespeare's. Piumini tells the old tale more from the point of view of the girl, reducing it to the original novella length, letting it profit from a language whose clarity heightens the drama. The handsome illustrations in Neorenaissance style complement the text well. (12+)

152 Piumini, Roberto (text)
Bosnia, Nella (illus.)
Il segno di Lapo (The Sign of Lapo)
Trieste : Einaudi Ragazzi, 1992. 210 S.
(Einaudi Ragazzi / Narrativa; 8)
ISBN 88-7926-078-2
Wedding Feast at Cana <Painting> - Painting - Fogery - Detective Story

In the form of a detective story, the painting "Wedding Feast at Cana" by an old master is revealed to be a forgery by a group of youth. A pleasurable and easy to read story with handsome single-color illustrations. (12+)

153 Speri, Pietro
Ric della montagna (Ric of the Mountains)
Bergamo : Janus, 1993. 214 S.
(Collana "le letture"; 42)
o. ISBN
Youth - Loneliness - Friendship - Identity Crisis

After the death of his grandfather, Riccardo lives, with the permission of his parents, alone in the mountains. His all-absorbing attention to Nature is interrupted when he becomes acquainted with three youths in a neighboring village. He learns to live in a community again. Speri's narration shows a fine sensibility for the psyche of youth, their yearning for pure nature, their search for an acceptable identity. (14+)

154 Venturi, Marcello (text)
Bosnia, Nella (illus.)
Collefiorito (The Little City of Blumenberg)
Trieste : Elle, 1993. 75 S.
(Collana "le letture"; 70)
ISBN 88-7068-544-6
Small Town - Railroad - Adventure

This amusingly written and easy to read story deals with a dormant little city whose only variety is the railroad line whose trains and passengers seem to stimulate the fantasy of the inhabitants. (8+)

155 Verne, Jules
Faeti, Antonio (intro.)
L'isola dello zio Robinson (Uncle Robinson's Island)
Translated by Francesca Cavattoni
Milano : Mondadori, 1992. 209 S.
(Libri per ragazzi)
ISBN 88-04-36324-X
Robinsonade

In the city archives of Nantes, a previously unpublished manuscript by Jules Verne (with the title L'Oncle Robinson) was recently found and is published here for the first time - in Italian. Verne began to work on the text, which was intended for the magazine "Magasin d'éducation et de récreation", in 1861. But only later did a revised version appear with the title "The Mysterious Island." The original version remained unpublished until now. In view of the extraordinarioness of this discovery, the book is prefaced by an introduction by the internationally renown children's book reserach Antonio Faeti.

156 Ziliotto, Donatella (text)
Nidasio, Grazia (illus.)
Un chilo di piume, un chilo di piombo (A Kilo of Feathers, a Kilo of Lead)
Trieste : Einaudi Ragazzi, 1992. 87 S.
(Einaudi Ragazzi / Narrativa; 2)
ISBN 88-7926-082-0
Triest - World War <1939-1945> - Child - Autobiography

The well-known writer tells of her childhood during the Second World War in Triest in a readable and, in spite of its serious topic, witty language. Caricature black-and-white illustrations of remarkable quality enrichen the book. (10+)

■ Portugal

157 Amaral, Pitum Keil do (text)
Brandão, Luísa (illus.)
O Zbiriguidófilo e outras histórias (The Zbiriguidófilo and Other Stories)
[Porto]: ASA, 1991. 28pp
(Colecção ASA juvenil 55)
ISBN 972-41-0922-4
Portugese/Short Stories

Five short stories both possible and impossible, in the first story, the father learns that he can read his newspaper in peace even at home if he will only tell his son a story first of all; the second story deals with something which is mysterious only for the reader; the third describes the encounter between a young boy and a much-feared bull who longs for a little tenderness; in the fourth story 714 penguins take an excursion to the Algarve; the fifth deals with a skirmish between cousins. Brief situational descriptions, good dialogues. (8+)

158 Figueiredo, Violeta (text)
Bacelar, Manuela (illus.)
Fala Bicho (Say Animal)
[Porto]: ASA, 1992. 44pp
(Colecção Benjamim)
ISBN 972-41-1004-4
Lyric/Portugese - Nonsense

Golden brown shaded pages alternate with airy green-blue ones, the watery brush stroke gives the ocean and land each their own structure on which animals, cities and plants have intentionally childlike forms. Each double-page spread is reserved for the presentation of a poem. The lyrical miniatures contain absurdities, word play, amazement and wit. A picture book to indulge oneself in, with the ring of language in one's ear. (5+) Prémio INASSET-INAPA 1991

Romance Languages

Special Mention

159 Losa, Ilse (text)
Modesto, António (illus.)
Miguel o expositor (Miguel, the Exhibitor)
[Porto]: Afrontamento, 1993 (1st ed. 1983)
(Colecção Tretas e Letras 10)
ISBN 972-36-0301-2
Poverty - Art - Mother/Son

Painting as an expression of intimate needs is made immediately visible in the case of young Miguel. When the friend of his overworked mother sends Miguel out on the street to sell his first, still unfinished picture in order to make money, he obeys him. Miguel succeeds in selling his picture for a high price. But when the mother, made happy by the money, encourages him to make more pictures to sell, something in him threatens to break. When the mother suddenly recognizes the pain her child suffers and attends to him, the effect is redeeming for both protagonists and reader. The mood of each chapter is suggested by the use of matted or bright colors. (8+)

Latin America (Spanish)

Argentina

160 Andruetto, María Teresa (text)
Melgar, Patricia (illus.)
El anillo encantado (The Magic Ring)
[Buenos Aires]: Sudamericana, 1993. 59pp
Pan Flauta 21 (Cuentos del mundo)
ISBN 950-07-0824-8
Fairy Tale/Retelling

These seven fairy tales, whether set in the Orient, in the European Middle Ages or somewhere in between light and shadow, are for the most part well-known. But this volume is not simply an edition of modernized versions of old tales. The particular fascination of this edition lies instead in the form. The transition from several short sentences to a longer one, and the deliberate repetition of narrative segments give these texts a poetic structure in which each word has its place, determined by both the meaning and rhythm. (10+)

161 Shua, Ana María (text)
Franco, Coca (illus.)
La puerta para salir del mundo (The Exit Gate of the World)
[Buenos Aires]: Sudamericana, 1992. 59pp
Pan Flauta 19 (Sentimientos)
ISBN 950-07-0747-0
Truth - Lie - Reality - Dream - Adult

As a result of his visit to a television studio, Andrés is shattered to find that everything in television is an outright lie. At home he seeks comfort with his stuffed dog, Pelusa. A mysterious Mr. Qwerty enters his room through the wall, offering to let him pass through the blue door to the world "where everything is true" - but only if he doesn't tell a single white lie for 24 hours. The second story of this volume, The Dove's Feather, also involves the use of contrasting worlds in order to learn to recognize the present reality better, making it easier to bear: Gustavo saves a dove and receives a magic feather without learning how it is to be used. In any case, it doesn't help him to learn his multiplication tables. Only later, as a grown-up, does he discover its properties by accident - when he watches seemingly carefree children at play, and wishes he could return to that age again, his wish is immediately granted. The author tells her stories cleverly and with humor. (8+)

Romance Languages

162 Villafañe, Javier (text)
Contarbio, Delia (illus.)
El hombre que debía adivinarle la edad al diablo (The Man Who Had to Guess the Devil's Age)
[Buenos Aires]: Sudamericana, 1991. 53pp
Colección Pan Flauta 15 (Cuentos de América)
ISBN 950-07-0660-1
Argentina/Fairy Tale - Poet

Javier Villafañe is a well-known and respected puppet-player and fairy tale teller even far beyond the border of Argentina. The title story of this volume is known everywhere, but enhanced here with local color and word play. The second story, El tío Kive reveals the interaction of fantasy and reality: While Alejandro is working on geometry problems, the admonishing and controlling voice of his father brings him back again over and over to the school-boy reality he would like to flee, but random images of street-life take on a nimble, improvable life of their own. His thoughts also wander off to his oncle, whose eyes he has supposedly inherited. Alejandro's imagination and his simultaneous worlds are quite convincingly and humorfully portrayed. Dreamers will easily recognize themselves here. (9+)

Mexico

163 Mendoza, Susana (text)
Dávalos, Felipe (illus.)
Cuento de Junio (Tales of June)
[Amecameca]: C.E.L.T.A./Amaquemecan, 1991. 26pp
(Barril sin Fondo)
ISBN 986-6465-15-4
Myth - Sommer Soltice - Sun - Jaguar - Indians

At the start of this book we see a panorama of luscious vegetation, a woman and three girls going through the forest as the sun begins to rise. Armadillos and birds are still sitting in the darkness. Only on the next page does the story of the encounter of the young girls with the great "tiger", the golden shining one, really begin. Is it the sun? The old grandfather, whom the children tell about this encounter, believes it. Pages of text alternate with double-spread illustrations. The sequence invites the reader to linger with the pictures which portray both the mythic dimensions of the story and the subjective experiences of the girls. The illustrations of this updated version of the solstice myth are brilliantly colored and mysterious, but also reflect a realistic Mexican landscape. (8+)

Spain (Galician)

164 Villar Janeiro, Helena (text)
López Domínguez, Xan (illus.)
A canción do rei (The Song of the King)
[Vigo]: Galaxia, 1991. 89pp
Arbore (Serie Verde)
ISBN 84-7154-758-9
Poetry - School - Friendship - Sea - Good King Dagobert (Song)

Cosme himself doesn't know why he so often makes claims that are not at all true. For instance, to claim at school that he knows a real king. And in the music lesson to suggest that a song must be composed for this king. He would supply the details on the following day. That afternoon by the sea, while he struggles to find a way out of his lies, a miracle suddenly occurs. Over the waves comes first the chords of a fanfare, then an army with King Dagobert at its head. He only realizes that it is King Dagobert when his mother sings him the popular French children's song about good King Dagobert that very evening. The author accompanies her protagonists consistently and sympathetically, letting the reader share, along with Cosme's school friends, in the ordinary and extraordinary. (9+)

Spain (Catalan)

165 Coll, Pep

Qué farem, què direm? (What shall we do, what shall we say?)

[Barcelona]: Cruïlla, 1992. 168pp
(Gran Angular 42)
ISBN 84-7629-604-5

Pyrennees - Hobgoblin - Legend - Illegal Immigrant

During a visit to the local museum of ethnology the narrator, the school-girl Bet, hears for the first time about the strange and even dangerous miniature inhabitants of the Pyrennees. Didn't something just move in the vessel in which, according to the label, they are living? Naturally Bet succeeds, firstly, in learning more about the "minairons", seconds, in liberating them, and thirdly having them serve and entertain her. The story is set in a village at the time of the celebration of the Three Magi, of which Bartholemew, the black man, helps the author to point out the dangerous situation and lack of rights these people have. Even his protagonist can't do anything to change that. In the end Bet loses the "minairons," but not before they help the basketball team, her first gentle love, to victory. (13+)

Premi Gran Angular 1991

Special Mention

166 Jordana, C. A.(text)
Jover, Lluïsa (illus.)

Antenaforta i Caragran (Strong Antenna and a Large Face)

[Barcelona]: Abadia de Montserrat, 1992. 24pp
(La Finestra 19)
ISBN 84-7826-297-0

Fable - Ant - Cricket - Agreement

The crickets sing untiringly in order to ease the life of the ants who scurry about their work in long columns. Over and over again the crickets assure each other how glad the ants must be to have this musical accompaniment. They only realize that their chirping gets on the ants' nerves when the ants are relaxing in their comfortable winter apartments and the crickets beg them for food - only to be given the cold brush off. But next summer when the ants can barely drag themselves along in the August sun, the crickets having decided to strike, the ants then send their own delegation. Winter provisions are assured, if only they will sing again for the weary workers. The illustrations by Jover give this old and often retold fable additional charm. While entire convoys of racy ants line the borders in various formations, small, full-sized drawings on the opposite page portray the place, action and mood of the events with all its delightful minute details. (6+)

167 Quart, Pere

Vacances pagades (Paid Vacation)

[Barcelona]: Enciclopèdia Catalana, 1992. 92pp
(Columna Proa Jove 45)
ISBN 84-7739-422-9

Lyrical poetry/Catalan

Pere Quart (pseudonym of Joan Oliver i Sallares, 1899-1986) is considered the most important Catalan poet of this century and this book "possibly his best book" (according to The Oxford Companion to Spanish Literature). This little volume, with its short and clear texts, is published for young adults who experience poetry as an expression of their humanity. The author received the renown Ausiàs March Prize in 1959 and the Lletra d'Or in 1961.

Spain (Spanish)

168 Cervantes, Miguel de (text)
Ginesta, Montserrat (illus.)
Gimenez-frontín, José Luis (Adaptor)

Don Quijote (Don Quixote)
[Barcelona]: La Galera, 1993. 86pp
(La Galera a proa 1)
ISBN 84-246-8501-6
Don Quixote

Experience shows that the adventures of Don Quixote have become a byword, but hardly a pupil knows them from actual reading - the book is too thick, the language too difficult. This adaptation will hopefully tempt readers to delve into the original at the right time. This edition contains the well-known adventures and characteristic elements which make its reading a delight. The illustrations by the artist Ginesta emphasize the light-hearted, burlesque side of the novel. (10+)

169 Faner, Pau (text)
Vila, Jordi (illus.)

La Dama de la media almendra. La Isla de los Hombres
(The Lady of the Half-Almond. The Island of Mankind)
[Barcelona]: Destino, 1992. 132pp
(Pequeño delfín)
Fairy Tale/Spanish - Love - Knight - Adventure

Beauty which drives men crazy is a well-known motif. The places below and above earth where dramatic rescue attempts or wild adventures take place are also well-known. And also the helpful spirits, bewitched princes and princesses. All this and much more is mixed together by the author in a new fairy tale novel. At the same time he interrupts the long series of descriptions, which have any amount of purple, silver, and bell-like laughter, for two or three short, profane statements from his protagonists just at the right moment, in order to keep his readers suspended between pathos, irony and persiflage and well-entertained. The sequel to this novel is titled "El camino de las rocas negras." (12+)

170 Farias, Juan (text)
Gatagán, Tino (illus.)

La Espada de Liuva (Liuva's Sword)
[Barcelona]: SM, 1990. 123pp
(Catamarán 26)
ISBN 84-348-3275-5
Shepherd - Family - Law - Freedom - Amadis - Middle Ages

The young shepherd wants to lead a life for himself, not for his lord. With his father's blessing and a piece of bread he sets out into the world. He learns to keep on his toes and meets a girl who becomes his companion. They travel through burned out plains, and have to flee from murderous masters. They settle in a place where their child is born. He works the land and unquestioningly takes in other solitary travelers - a robber and a herbalist. They all want just one thing - to satisfy the elementary needs of food, warmth and a life not subject to arbitrary power. This story takes place in a fictitious Middle Ages, which demands the saving intervention of the knight Amadis. The chronicler, however, comes from another point in time: books are his "time machine." Human needs are shown to be as constant today as they were then. (10+)

171 Fortún, Elena (text)
Munoa, Rafael (illus.)
Celia en el colegio (Celia at School)
[Madrid]: Aguilera, 1973 (1st ed. 1950). 224S.
(Celia y su mundo)
ISBN 84-03-46004-X
Schoolgirl - Boarding School - Child/Adult

When Celia appeared in the Spanish literature (her adventures began in the 1930s and continued into the 1950s) she was enthusiastically welcomed. Today she is a fixed part of Spain's cultural knowledge. A few years ago her books were successfully reprinted. Although some parts are only of historical interest, the Elena Fortúns dialogue technique (the series Celia and her World is constructed only with dialogues) is exemplary and her consistent partisanship for the child in a world dominated by adults remains relevant. (8+)

172 Gregori, Josep (text)
Bosca, Ferran (illus.)
Carreño, Soledad (Translator from Catalan)
La brujita Teresita (The Little Witch Teresita)
[Barcelona]: La Galera, 1993. 130pp
(Grumetes 1)
ISBN 84-246-8601-2
Witch - Broom - Child-swapping - Friendship - Magic

A man and wife witch couple is shocked at the appearance of their newborn daughter - red-cheeked, no warts, smiling, simply despicable! The daughter does however develop into a good little witch, though with a few peculiarities. She secretly trains the vacuum cleaner, she prefers milk and vegetables to flies' legs and rat-tails. When all the magic brooms are stolen one day from the witches' village, she is the one who discovers the thieves -lazy men who try to get out of their household chores with this present to their wives. Along the way she also saves a young boy who seems to fit quite well into the witches village. The observations, dialogue and conclusions of this many facetted game with the entire arsenal of witchery are a source of light-hearted fun. (8+)

Special Mention

173 Martin Gaite, Carmen (text/-illus.)
Caperucita en Manhattan (Little Red Riding Hood in Manhattan)
[Madrid]: Siruela, 1991. 205pp
(Las tres edades)
ISBN 84-7844-056-9
New York City - Grandmother/Granddaughter - Little Red Riding Hood <Motif> - Freedom - Statue of Liberty - Stawberry Pie

As the book blurb says: Sara Allen is a 10-year-old girl living in Brooklyn. Her greatest wish is to go one day all alone to Manhattan to visit her grandmother and bring her a strawberry pie. This grandmother was once a variety show dancer and married several times. The wolf is here Mr. Wolf, a pastry cook and multimillionare who lives in a skyscraper near Central Park. But the magical path of the story leads to Miss Lunatic, an ageless beggar who lives in the Statue of Liberty by day and spends her nights outside. An encouter with her changes a person's life. In any case, the declared reader's age of "For 8 to 80" for this series is correct for this book, which is much deeper than just a literary game, but which is also fun. (8-80)

174 Guillén, Jorge

Isla de rojo coral (Insel aus roter Koralle) (Island of the Red Corals)

With an Introduction by Ana Pelegrín
[Salamanca]: Lóguez 1993. 136pp
(La joven colección)
ISBN 84-85334-68-X
Lyric/Spanish - Cuba - Anthology

This selection of poems from different cycles is particularly well suited to showing the wide spectrum of work by this extraordinary poet (1902-1989) who also wrote especially for children. His poems are in part set to music, a fact which, in view of the marked rhythm of his verses, sounds almost like a tautology. In his poems he sings the praises of his homeland Cuba and its inhabitants, the descendants of Africans and Spaniards, and makes a plea for social justice, tolerance and freedom. (12+)

■ Denmark

175 Christiansen, Ole E.

Skjolds mærkelige rejse (Skjold's Remarkable Journey)

[Frederiksberg] : Branner og Korch, 1993. 114pp
ISBN 87-411-5700-1
Legend/Nordic - Valhalla - Death

The thirteen-year old Skjold-the-Stone-thrower is killed in battle and is brought to Asgård by the Valkyries. He is also allowed to be take a seat in Valhalla. Because of his youth, he is given a chance to begin his life again. This easy to read story is amusingly told. At the back of the book there are explanations for the most important names and terms from the Nordic mythology. (10+)

176 Haller, Bent

Neondrengens profeti (The Prophesy of the Neonboy)

Kopenhagen : Høst & Søn, 1993. 167pp
ISBN 87-14-19224-1
Humanity - Redemption - Hope - Christ/Legend

A story of the battle between good and evil within man, a drama of redemption within an asocial setting marked by prostitution, drug abuse and alcoholism, is developed upon the basic pattern of the biblical story of Jesus. Told without any Christian evangelical ambition by the ten-year old Sara (as Maria), who bears a son Solnvan (meaning "nameless"), after the anunciation by a light-flooded "Neondreng". The message that hope can only be conveyed to the hopeless by someone from their own background, is embedded in a narrative tone which keeps up the suspense until the end, at times oppressively sobering, but always impressive language. (14+)

Scandinavian Languages

177 Hansen, Niels Henrik

Rejsen til Okapi : lilles fire historier (The Journey to Okapi: Lille's Four Tales)

Aarhus : Modtryk, 1993. 203pp
ISBN 87-7394-294-4

Primitive People - Flight - Civilization - Reservation

Due to a dramatic change in climate, a hunting people is forced to leave its land. They take over a strange, stranded ship which brings them to their island homeland. There they are confronted with civilization, where the guests can read, produce ships and clothing, make fire, etc. They also have a different religion. As a result aggressive feelings grow ever stronger among the two peoples, making a conflict appear unavoidable. Written in the style of adventure stories written in an indefinable time and place, this is challenging, thought-provoking reading matter. (12+)

178 Koch, Peter Gjellerup

I det syvende helvede (In the 7th Hell)

[Frederiksberg] : Branner og Korch, 1993. 248pp ISBN 87-411-5710-9

First Love - Inexperience - Self-identity

In a moment of adventurousness, Malmcolm gets engaged at the age of sixteen. Constanze is a submissive, patient bride. But neither she nor Malcolm, who has until know gotten all his information from rather dark and dubious sources, know what love really means. His mother, however, has a rather strange, but much-experienced older household helper, who patiently shows Malmcolm how to deal with reality better, even to the point of solving his psychological and physical problems with puppet role-playing and practical instruction. This is almost a Daphne and Chloe story, but, quite modern, delving deeply and broadly into the human soul. It is written in such a fascinating, sometimes satirical style that to read it is a delight to read. (16+)

179 Stybe, Vibeke (ed.)
Olsen, Ib Spang (illus.)

Syng mine svaner (Sing, My Swans)

København : Carlsen, 1992. - 140pp
(schwedische Ausgabe ISBN 91-510-6541-X)

Fairy Tale/Scandinavia

This exquisitely illustrated and printed edition of Nordic tales was published simultaneously in all Scandinavian countries. With Vibeke Stybe as editor, one can be assured of a good selection. The illustrations - relaxed, stimulating, but not overly colorful - are late work of the famous Danish illustrator and excellently reflect the Nordic atmosphere of the tales. (8+)

Special Mention

180 Thaulov, Pia

Lille Kong Magnus (Little King Magnus)

Kopenhagen : Høst & Søn, 1993. 30pp
ISBN 87-14-13081-5

Only Child - Sibling - Jealousy

As a single child, one is kind, but the parents are already at work at the dethronement. Once the little baby brother is born, a highly painful process of adjustment to a new situation begins. Pia Thaulov is a vehement illustrator, the brush full of energy, the colors wild, her ideas wild and grotesque. All the actors are characterized with unerring strokes. The mother, in spite of a stomach like as kettle drum, is not pregnant wet blanket, but remains an attractive young woman. The new infant is not, as usual, drawn sugary sweetly, as if from the parents point of view, but, complete with umbilical chord as if on a fishing pole, blue and blaring, leaps toward the first-born, who falls from his disintegrating throne as if into nowhere. The book ends happily in harmonious brotherliness, while the parents are sent off to prepare bottles and make more children. (0+)

Iceland

181 Ólafsson, Guðmundur P.

Í fjörunni (In the Harbors)

[Reykjavík] : Mál og menning, 1992. [16pp]
(Milli himins og jarðar)
ISBN 9979-3-0358-1
Iceland/Flora and Fauna - Sea Harbor

In impressive photos the surprisingly rich life under water in the sea harbors of a seemingly barren Iceland are introduced. (10+)

182 Eldjárn, Þórarinn (text) Ólafsson, Tryggvi (illus.)

Litarím (Poetry)

Reykjavík : Forlagið, 1992. [28pp]
ISBN 9979-53-177-0
Lyrik/Icelandic - Color

These pretty poems give examples of things made of the primary colors and their basic mixtures (green, brown, orange, gray). They are illustrated with full-sized, graphically quite impressive picture of strong coloring which are oriented somewhat toward Léger. (6+)

183 Gíslason, Gylfi (illus./reteller) Árnason, Jón (text)

Sálin Hans Jóns míns (The Soul of My Hans Jóns)

Reykjavík : Forlagið, 1992. [26pp]
ISBN 9979-53-164-9
Fairy Tale/Iceland - Death - Paradise

In Iceland the long, cold and dark seasons provide the opportunity to make up good stories, to write good books - and to read. In this tale, a woman catches the soul of her husband, a notoriously layabout, in a sack and carries it herself to the gates of heaven, where St. Peter happens to be sweeping the steps. When both Peter and Paul, both Maria and Jesus refuse to take on the package, she gives it a sturdy kick into the heavenly kingdom. This ingenious icelandic tale (based on a text by Jón Árnason), with excellently drawn and printed illustrations is related in such a staggeingly funny manner that no child should be denied it. (6+)

184 Gíslason, Gylfi (illus./reteller) Davíðsson, Ólafur (text)

Sagan af Gýpu (The Tale of Gypa)

Reykjavík : Forlagið, 1992. [24pp]
ISBN 9979-53-165-7
Fairy Tale/Iceland - Glutton

The same illustrator who wrote "Sálin Hans Jóns mín" (see above) retells the old tale of a girl (or man or animal??) who eats anything which he encounters until bursting and thus returning everyting again in Icelandic local color as a very amusing picture story. (6+)

Norway

185 Karlsen, Øyvind Bremer

Odin går berserk! : All verdas frimerke med motiv frå norrøn gudetru og historie (Wotan goes Berserk: Postal Stamps from Around the World with Motives from northen Islands, Religion and History)

Oslo : Det Norske Samlaget, 1992. 112pp
ISBN 82-521-3821-7
Scandanavia <Motif> - Postal Stamp

In the form of a very lovely, and clearly laid out information book we are presented here with a catalog of postage stamps, all reproduced in full-color. They are organized in the manner of Stanley Gibbon's catalogs. For individual motifs and themes there are interesting to read, short historical and cultural tales given. (10+)

Scandinavian Languages

186 Løland, Rasmus
Kvitebjørnen (The Polar Bear)
Oslo : Det Norske Samlaget, 1993. 117pp
(Klassikarserien for barn 1)
ISBN 82-521-4104-8
Everyday Life/Child - Norway

Løland (1861-1907) is one of the great classic writers of Norwegian children's literature who rightly deserves to be reprinted over and over again. These tales from the everyday lives of three children - Gunnar, Kolbein and Andres - in a Norwegian village reads just a smoothly today as a hundred years ago because of is humorous, sympathetic style of language.

187 Viermyr, Marianne
Gøgeungen (Cuckoo Child)
Aarhus : Forl. Modtryk, 1993. 155pp
(Originalausgabe: Gjøkungen. Oslo: Gyldendal Norsk, 1991)
ISBN 87-7394-298-7
Illegitimate Child - Orphanage - Foster Parent - Siblings - Death - True Identity - Nightmare

A young girl who feels unwanted and misunderstood (her playmates tease her by calling her cuckoo child) has dark, inexplicable memories. Others seem to known more about her past than she does. She learns from her grandmother that she is the illegitimate, unwanted child of her "aunt", brought up in a home for children. Her helplessness within her surroundings, her search for the truth are vital and gripping, portrayed without tear-jerking sentimentality. (12+)

188 Økland, Einar
Siste time : Ni ulike historier (The Final Hour: Nine Different Stories)
Oslo : Det Norske Samlaget, 1992. 94pp
ISBN 82-521-3893-4
Short Stories/Norwegian

Witty, reflective, surrealistic short stories by a renown Norwegian writer - potential texts for a future picture book? (10+)

189 Sem, Ingebjørg Dahl
Fløyten og tårnet (The Flute and the Tower)
Oslo : H. Aschehoug, 1993. 195pp
ISBN 82-03-17089-7
Power Abuse

Arikko, a shepherd-boy from a village in the mountains, whose favorite lamb is flogged to death by knights, sets out on a quest for justice and gets caught up himself in a forces of power represented by the oppressor Rekado. The age-old theme of prostituted power and preservation of honor are treated here in a thrilling adventure story in the Nordic landscape and a long-ago time - good for a flight of the imagination in several hours of reading. (12+)

Sweden

190 Eggens, Magda
Lagercrantz, Rose
... vad mina ögon har sett (... What My Eyes Have Seen)
Stockholm : Rabén & Sjögren, 1992. 77pp
ISBN 91-29-62067-8
National Socialism - Jew/Persecution - Hungary/History <1944-1945>

Rose Langercrantz has written the memoirs of a Hungarian Jewish girl as a first-person report. The internment of the family, the murder of the mother and little sister, the trembling with desire for survival until the liberation and the resettlement in Sweden, thanks to the Prince Folke Bernadotte Campaign have an especially great impact, which makes this book stand out among the numerous other books about similar experiences. (12+)

Scandinavian Languages

191 Hellberg, Hans-Eric

Bakom masken (Behind the Masks)

Stockholm : Bonniers junior , 1993. - 166pp
ISBN 91-48-52086-1

Burglar - Foreigner - Detective Story

Two girls try to retain the burglar who has broken into their apartment. When he offers resistance, the situation becomes dangerous, until they are rescued by Ali, a Lebanese refugee. But his sudden appearance makes him, too, suspicious. As a result of the ensuing investigation, he is faced with deportation. But when it is determined that, on the contrary, he had only been helpful, he, of course, can stay. A simple story, but well-written and suspenseful, especially suitable for youth who are reluctant readers. (12+)

192 Larsson, Mats

Alex Borell och Rasisterna (Alex Borell and the Racists)

Stockholm : Norstedts, 1993. 127pp
ISBN 91-1-937302-3

Sweden/History <1990-1993> - Neonazism - Right-Wing Extremism - Racism - Civil Courage - Detective Story

Neonazism in Sweden? It exists and is even suited to carry the plot of a detective story in which a youthful photographer who gets involved in a brutal encounter with right-wing extremists through his Chilean girlfriend decides to fight actively against it. This well-told and thrilling detective story set in the Stockholm scene does not misuse this topic to catch a corner of the market, but functions instead as a convincing call to civil courage in view of the racism spreading around Sweden. (13+)

193 Linde, Gunnel (text)
Nygren, Tord (illus.)

En som hat tur (One Who Had Good Luck)

Stockholm : Norsteds Förlag, 1993. 85pp
ISBN 91-1-927452-1

Holiday - Girl - Grandmother

The well-known Swedish author skillfully tells the easy to read, humorous story of a holiday in which a girl who travels with its little dog and big brother to visit grandmother gets involved in all kinds of adventures. (8+)

194 Nilsson, Per

Hjärtans fröjd (Joy of My Heart <also: Lemon Balm>)

Stockholm : Rabén & Sjögren, 1992. 151pp
ISBN 91-29-62125-9

Love

Love stories are on the rise, and hardly a youth novel, regardless of plot, can resist the attraction to this theme. This book deals with nothing other than seeking and finding, love and jealousy, fall and hope. That a math and music teacher is in a position to depict this old theme in such an enchanting, sensitive and yet linguistically ambitious style that one tumbles enchantedly on from one episode to another, lets one have hope for that profession. (15+)

195 Pohl, Peter
Gieth, Kinna

Jag saknar dig, jag saknar dig! (I Miss You! I Miss You!)

Stockholm : Rabén & Sjögren, 1993. 255pp
ISBN 91-29-62104-6

Girl - Twin - Death - Mastery - First Love

A death breaks up the normal life of the twins Tina and Cilla, full of teenage problems and hopes, disrupting the harmonious and idyllic life of a family with stepmother and stepbrother. Cilla dies in a car accident. To mourn and to overcome mourning is a difficult task for Tina and her father, who until this event had been rather cold. A new love means a new beginning for Tina. Peter Pohl is the guiding hand behind this narration of a story of a surviving sister which is based on a true situation and he masterfully manages to combine fiction and reality. As is to be expected, he does not offer us "problem literature" which anxiously clings to pedagogical intentions, but instead through his original, often lightly ironic style into a lively picture of family life and an unconventional depiction of love between teenagers an electrifying reading experience. (15+)

196 Sundvall, Viveca (text)
Eriksson, Eva (illus.)

En barkbåt till Eddie
(A Cattle Boat for Eddie)

Stockholm : Rabén & Sjögren, 1992. 152pp
ISBN 91-29-62146-1
Asthma - Allergy - Play Therapy

Because Eddie is allergic to dogs, he experiences dangerous shortage of breath. His older brother saves him by notifying the emergency service. His stay in hospital is made easier by the play therapy they conduct with him there. Viveca Sundvall skillfully develops this dry, but seldom treated topic in an interesting and exciting manner. The excellent pencil drawings by Eva Eriksson make the book even more attractive. (12+)

197 Wahl, Mats

Vinterviken (The Winter Vik)

Stockholm : Bonniers, 1993. 287pp
ISBN 91-48-52119-1
Sweden - Racism - Crime - Love

John-John has grown up in a socially deprived area. His friend Sluggo joins up with the Neonazis, and he himself is pushed by his friends into criminal acts. A love relationship, however, gives him the strength to keep his head up, even in this mess. In an impressive, demanding language, interwoven with poetic asides, the author depicts this inferno of botched childhoods, alcoholism, crime and racism - which Sweden is no longer spared. (14+)

Belgium (Flemish)

198 Daele, Henri van

En appels aan de overkant (And Apples on the Other Side)

Tielt: Lannoo, 1992. 396pp
ISBN 90-209-1884-2
Belgium/History 1950s - Childhood Memories

This is latest installment of tales about the author's childhood in which he tells about the important stages in life, such as the first visit to a secondary school, one's first self-earned money, about being in love. Not an easy story, it assumes the reader knows something about the history of Eastern Flanders. The story itself exudes with the safe atmosphere of the late 1950s, a time of big changes. Modern times were beginning, television and jeams became important. This is beautiful and honest report of childhood, filled with hilarity - a boy's life told in small, often surprising and moving details. A plain but sparkling story for a small group of readers who are open to such tales. (14+)

Netherlands (Dutch)

199 Lieshout, Ted van (text/illus.)

Multiple Noise (Multiple Noise)

Amsterdam: Leopold, 1992. 64pp
ISBN 90-258-3962-2
Poetry

With this title Van Lieshout reaches the summit of juvenile verse-writing in Holland. It is not a book of poetry in the calssical sense, but rather a genesis. The subtitle Poems, Studies, Thumbnail Sketches and Rough Drafts" clearly indicates the book's intention.

With the illustrations and poems presented side by side, the poet and illustrator, in one person, feel at ease with each other. "There is not so much difference between a poem and a drawing. One starts with a blank sheet of paper on which something has to come into existence. One draws words with lines or one writes with lines a drawing." The poems show someone searching for something, someone longing for freedom and security, someone's moods and thoughts. At the end of the book, the vairous illustration techniques are explained, adding a further dimension to the publication. It is to be commended that Lieshout's publisher dares to publish a book of this kind, which is likely to appeal only to a small readership. (13+)

200 Vries, Anke de

Blauwew plekken (Black and Blue)

Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, 1992. 170pp
ISBN 90-6069-831-2
Child Abuse

Even if Judith does her best, she can never please her mother. Once in a terrible rage, her mother beat Judith black and blue. The girl had to invent stories to cover up for her absence from school. By making friends with her new classmate Michiel, she discovers what it means to live in a happy family. For a long time no one had been aware of Judith's problem, but finally Michiel grows suspicious and able to provide some help. This isa fascinating and smoothly written book with an open end that incites the reader to think things over. The prospect that Judith will get help is only touched upon. In this near documentary story of an abused child, the childhood experiences of Judith's mother, which lay at the root of her own behavior, are also described in a captivating way. (11+)

201 Kolk, Anton van der (text) Fialkowski, Camila (illus.)

Een pelikaan op straat (A Pelican Out on the Streets)

Amsterdam: Van Goor, 1992. 136pp
ISBN 90-00-02887-6
Multicultural Society - Moving House - Culture Clash

Six-year-old Marita moves from a small Costa Rican island, to the Netherlands, to live with Erik, her mother's boyfriend. Everything there is different, causing some funny situations to arise. It is not easy for the spontaneous Marita to get used to a country in which it often rains, is often chilly and there are strange habits to get used to every day. The problems caused by this move, the adjustment to an entirely new way of life, are perceptively described by the author in this debut novel, a smoothly written story. . This book was awarded the Jenny Smelik IBBY Prize in 1993, which is given an author or illustrator of a juvenile work that contributes to the better understanding of minority groups, especially allochtonous peoples. (8+)

■ Frisian

202 Wassenaar, Jaitsche (text) Laurens, Bontes (illus.)

It pak ffan ús heit (My father's Suit)

Ljouwert: AFUK, 1993. 133pp
ISBN 90 6273 476 6
Netherlands/History <1944-1948> - National Socialism - Collaboration

Eight-year old Jetske feels insecure at home and out on the streets, because her father is a member of the Dutch National Socialists Movements. She only feels safe in a little spot near the graveyard where she is able to escape from the cold world around her and indulge in her fantasies. The experiences of Jetske and her family over a period of several years after the Second World War and the family conflicts resulting in the father's insistence on maintaining his party membership are related here sympathetically and without dramatic climax. Subtle characterizations of the main characters, as well as Jetske's emotional conflicts are well developed. (10+)

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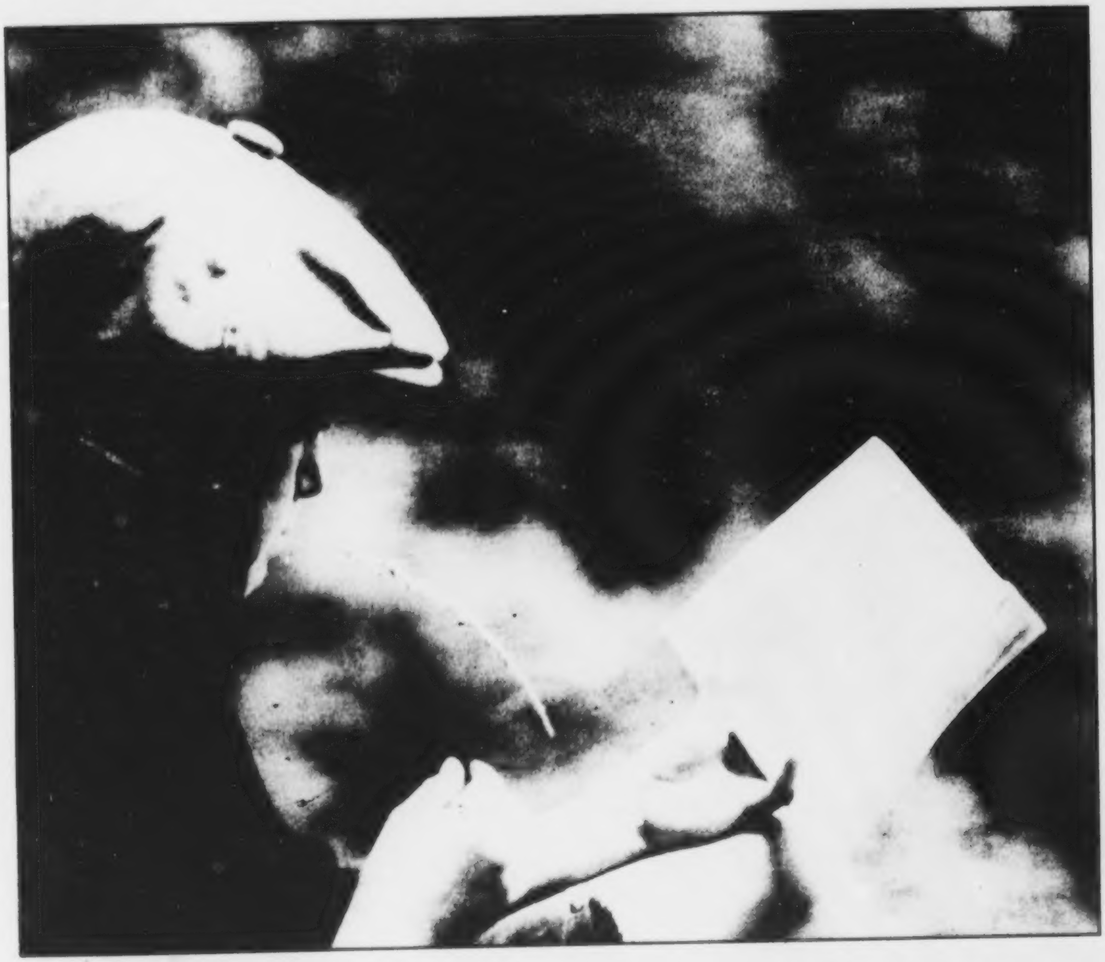

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Bibliothèque Internationale de la Jeunesse Munich
Biblioteca Internazionale Della Gioventù Monaco

Impressum

The White Ravens 1995
A Selection of International Children's
and Youth Literature

International Youth Library Munich
Schloß Blutenburg, D-81247 München
Germany
Tel.: 089/891211-0
Fax: 089/8117553

Editor: Dr. Barbara Scharioth

Selection:

East Asian Languages
Fumiko Ganzenmüller (Japanese)
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(annotations) (Afrikaans, Dutch, Flemish)

Cover photo: Dagmar Schubmehl, 1994

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Preface

The White Ravens have become a solid tradition over the years. Throughout the year the language specialists at the International Youth Library pick out new in-coming books which they consider especially noteworthy: the white ravens among the black ravens.

This publication appears each year in time for the Children's Book Fair in Bologna, where it is presented along with the books themselves to an international body of subject specialists. This "premium label" is given above all to books of international interest which on account of their universal theme and/or their exceptional and often innovative artistic and literary style and design deserve a wider reception.

Included among this selection are also "**special mentions**" ☺ which the library's *Lektoren* wish to draw particular attention to, to give them the widest possible recognition.

For the first time in this year's publication two additional labels have been assigned to the books. The **symbol** ✧ marks those books whose content is found contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples. In this way we remind ourselves and our readers of the working maxim which our founder, Jella Lepman, gave the library, and which in these times is still, sadly, of utmost concern.

A second **symbol** ☼ is assigned to books whose text was found to be easy to understand, i.e. easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics. Hence these books are well-suited to foreign-language readers and for inclusion in such collections of public libraries.

A small section of this catalog is finally dedicated to a theme which the International Youth Library will be highlighting this year: **ABC books** from around the world. The original impetus for this exhibition was given us two years ago by the recently deceased ABC-collector, Jane Gilmartin Gilchrist of New York City, to whom we will now dedicate the exhibit. A brief foretaste of 20 titles is included here.

As always this selection of over 170 titles in 25 languages from 38 countries certainly makes no claim to being exhaustive. It is drawn from the new books which the IYL received as review or donation copies in 1994 from publishers around the world. Unfortunately, not all the publishing houses which consistently and generously supply the IYL with their books can be featured here each year. Still, we want to cordially thank each and every one of them for their shipments of books and assure them that their books will be included in our depository collection.

In conclusion, **we renew our request to all publishers**: Please continue to send us your new titles. We aspire to fulfill the expectation that the International Youth Library in Munich be the home of the worldwide most comprehensive collection of international literature for children and young people.

Dr. Barbara Scharioth
Munich, March 1995

East Asian Languages

Japan

1

Gotô, Ryûji (text)

Tanaka, Makiko (illus.)

Yashin aratamezu. - Hitakamikokuden (We won't be conquered. The history of Hitakami)

Tokyo: Kodansha, 1993. 286pp

(Wakuwaku raiburarî)

ISBN 4-06-195666-3

Japan/History (646-811) - Conquest/Resistance

This historical novel, set in the 8th century, begins with the flight of fourteen-year-old Abi of the Emishi peoples from their place of exile to his homeland. The Emishi were the original people of northern Japan who were organized in independent tribes with tribal chiefs and their own culture. The emperors of that period set out to conquer the northern territories. Abi experienced the fierce battles of his peoples with the imperial government which led to the final subjugation of the Emishi. This novel offers a colorful range of figures from the emperor, territorial princes, tribal leaders and field marshalls fighting against the barbarians (the Emishi). The latter are usually known as the poets of ancient Japan. This book acquaints the young reader with a lesser-known chapter of Japanese history, in which opposing forces - the rigorousness of the rulers and the fierce resistance of the oppressed - stands out. (13+) ✧

32nd Noma Award for Juvenile Literature (1994)

☺ *Special Mention*

2

Itô, Hiroshi (text/illus.)

Osaru ni naru hi (A Monkey is born)

Tokyo: Kodansha, 1994. 86pp

(Dôwa ga ippai 36)

ISBN 4-06-197836-5

Self-discovery - Siblings

The first-reader series "Little Monkey Books" enjoys great popularity and wide readership from pre-school through adulthood. Little Monkey lives on a peaceful southern island. Earlier books in the series described the everyday life, the fear of being different, and adventures at sea; in this volume Little Monkey is waiting for a new brother or sister. The story tackles existential questions about life in a casual manner. The reader will be amused by the astonishing naivity, the delightful child-like thoughts and humorous illustrations which make the simple world of the monkey children seem like an oasis in comparison to one's own complicated and hectic surroundings. The "Little Monkey Books" are ingenious in their simplicity, which is perhaps the key to their enormous success. (5+) ☼

3

Iwasaki, Kyôko (text)

Iwasaki, Chihiro (illus.)

Akamanma-Tôge (Akamanma-Mountain Pass)

Tokyo: Doshinsha, 1994. 64pp

ISBN 4-494-02321-3

Homesickness - Grandparent/Grandchild

When her mother goes to the hospital to have her second child, young Kazuko is taken to stay in the country with her grandmother. Although she is affectionately cared for by her grandparents, and can enjoy splendid natural surroundings, sometimes she is homesick. This is a sensitive story of everyday life which nearly every child experiences in one way or another. Particularly noteworthy are the gentle illustrations by Chihiro Iwasaki which aptly capture the moods of the young girl and suggest something of the nature surrounding her without making it fully visible. From both a literary and an artistic point of view, this is an outstanding book in the inimitable Japanese style. (6+) ☼

4

Kimoto, Momoko (text/illus.)
Uzurachan no kakurembo (Let's Play Hide-and-Seek)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1994. 32pp
ISBN 4-8340-1230-1
Chicks - Hide-and-seek

A baby quail and a baby chick play hide-and-seek. Each searches for a hiding place resembling himself, to avoid discovery. But their play is always interrupted and they constantly find each other. Rain clouds darken the sky. Suddenly mysterious shadows appear beyond the grass - their mothers are coming to get them. All go home together happy and satisfied. In these simple scenes of playtime, portrayed creatively in clear shapes and colors, the feelings that little children experience day after day, such as joy, fright, fear and security, are given lively, immediate expression. (2+)

5

Kimura, Shôhei (text)
Yamazaki, Takumi (illus.)
Watashi wa obâchanga suki (Grandma, my Love!)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1994. [38pp]
IBSN 4-8340-1249-2
Grandmother/Grandchild - Old age/Illness

When Makiko's grandmother returns home from the hospital after her accident, she is mentally lamed. Makiko is greatly troubled and attempts to encourage her to speak with questions about the two of them. By looking at herself in a mirror, grandmother gradually begins to recognize herself again. This book deals with a topic rarely treated in picture books and offers a stimulus to discussion for children and their families. In order to illustrate the progress of grandmother's from confusion to self-rediscovery and also Makiko's feelings, the illustrator employs a daring, abstract style of painting. The prismatic imagery and dissolving colors are given expressive resolution thanks to the appropriate text. (6+)

6

Mado, Michio (text / illus.)
Sorekara... (And then?)
Tokyo: Dowaya, 1994. 160pp
ISBN 4-924684-80-5
Children's poetry - Existence

In his newest book of poetry for children and adults the 85-year-old Andersen prizewinner Michio Mado turns his attention to things and creatures that are taken for granted and hardly ever consciously experienced, such as mosquitos, ants, grass, wind, etc. Eveything in this world has a right to be here; because of their origins, every living thing is of equal value. Mado looks at creation not from the point of view a man, but from that of the living beings themselves. Hence the reader make new discoveries in his poetry over and over again. (7+)

7

Matsui, Tadashi (reteller)
Sekino, Kikuko (reteller)
Tan, Xiao Yong (illus.)
Yanmeizu to ryû (Yanmeiz, a boy who fought a dragon)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1994. 40pp
IBSN 4-8340-0245-4
Folk tale/China - Dragon -Abduction - Siblings - Peace - Wealth

A village boy born under miraculous circumstances sets off to rescue his sister from a dragon. His success brings peace and wealth to his village. The prize-winning Chinese illustrator Tan Xiao Yong contributes illustrations which combine traditional Indian ink and modern coloring on wet paper; inspite of their two-dimensionality they express spatial depth and physical weightiness. The strong, dynamic brushstrokes endow both the dragon and the protagonists, who are usually protrayed in the heroic poses of Asian theater, enormous liveliness. Alongside the impressive illustrations, which are outstanding examples of the singularity of the Asian art of painting, the painstakingly prepared text is rather reserved. (4+) ✧

8
Miyazawa, Kenji (text)
Kuroi, Ken (illus.)
Neko no jimusho (The Cat's Office)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1994. 36pp
(Nihon no dôwameisakusen)
ISBN 4-03-963426-9
Cat - Bureaucracy - Discrimination

A satirical, fable-like tale about small-minded bureaucracy. Five elitist cats preside in an office where self-importance, intimidation and hypocricy blossom. The author exposes the absurdity and folly of such everyday discrimination. In the end, unceremoniously, he lets a superior being in the figure of a lion to put an end to the whole business. The illlustrator Ken Kuroi succeeds in giving expression to the realistic and the phantistic aspects of the text, a task which is especially difficult to do for the works of Kenji Miyazawa, the modern classic writer who holds a unique place in Japanese children's and youth literature. (14+)

9
Murakami, Yumiko (text)
Azuma, Itsuko (illus.)
Santa no tomodachi Bâjinia - "Santa wa iruno?" to shimbunsha e tôshoshita shôjo
(Virginia, Santa Claus' friend. The little girl who asked the newpaper publisher whether there is a Santa Claus)
ISBN 4-03-421100-8
Santa Claus/Belief - Love - Poetry - O'Hanlon, Virginia/Biography

"Is there a Santa Claus?" - "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." Every American knows these two sentences. They come from a letter which an eight-year-old girl wrote to the editor of New York City's Sun newspaper in 1897 and the answer in the famous front-page article, which because of its profound content is still often reprinted and often read. It also aroused considerable interest in Japan when it was published there in 1977. Little was known about the girl Virginia until this book was published in a children's publishing house in Japan. This biography of Virginai O'Hanlon, who became a teacher when she grew up, reinforces the opinion of the newspaper editor, Francis Pharcell Church, that Santa Claus is still important for the world today because he represents important values such as faith, love and poetry. This book is illustrated with photos and painted silhouette pictures. (12+) ✧ ☼

10
Nasuda, Jun (text)
Yomogida, Yasuhiro (illus.)
Orefanto.- Nippon Zaemon shônenki
(The elephant. Notes about the young years of Nippon Zaemon)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1994. 253pp
ISBN 4-06-207251-3
Adventure - Friendship - Sincerity - Japan/Everyday life 18th century

In this suspenseful and enjoyable tale, a fictional historical novel, Nasuda skillfully weaves a historical persons and events into fictional plot. In the middle of the Edo era (mid-18th century) there was a famous robber. Nasuda's fictional account of his childhood is climaxed by an exciting encounter between an elephant and the little elephant driver from Annam. Life at the toll stations along the streets of this feudal social system are depicted in an informative and lively manner. Nasuda has adopted a new style here by writing some parts of the novel in the first person, thus making history more immediately present and directly appealing to the reader. (12+) ✧

11
Saragai, Tatsuya (text)
Hasegawa, Shûhei (illus.)
Bokusâ shigan (The Boxers)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1994. 179pp
(Kaiseisha Korekushon)
ISBN 4-03-744060-1
Growing up - Self-identity - Puberty/Boy
In these short stories five boys between the ages of 13 and 15 take leave of their childhood, each in his own way. One realizes that he must distance himself from his younger playmates, the second experiences the bitter reality of life through his own failure, the third is drawn into a dubious scheme of his father's, the fourth must take his mother's place in the work of the community, and the fifth experiences first love. All of them must try to deal with newly awakened feelings and a sense of self-discovery. Along the way, the foreign readers will get a glimpse into the everyday life of Japanese school children. This literary work, which is designed with a very original, eloquent cover, will leave the reader with a certain wistfulness. (12+) ✧

12
Senjû, Hiroshi (illus.)
Hoshi no furuyoni (When stardust falls...)
Tokyo: Fuzambo, 1994. [36 pp]
ISBN 4-572-00332-7
Stag - Nature - Adventure - Night - Lost
A young stag who lives in the woods with his parents gets lost one evening due to his fascination with a shooting star. Following the river in which the sparkling star is reflected, the young stag comes to an empty city and then a meadow. Only at dawn does he find his parents again. Hiroshi Senju, painting in the style of modern Japanese art, has created a wordless picture book in his own unique style. On the left side of each double-page spread there is nothing but a small map of the course being followed by the young stag. The visual interaction of map and illustration enables the observer to experience the spaciousness of nature and the stillness of the night in the same way the stag does. The fine distinction between sky, water and landscape imbues the entire picture book with a very delicate atmosphere. (6+)

13
Yamashita, Haruo (text)
Murakami, Yasunari (illus.)
Ora, Ûtan! (Hello, Ûtan!)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1994. 63pp
(Ohanashi kânibaru 8)
ISBN 4-03-460080-2
Racial integration - School - Child/Foreigner - Difference - Friendship
The cultural diversity which is gradually arising in Japan due to the presence of guest workers precipitated the appearance of this didactically excellent children's book. A highly unconventional beginning reader, it deals with the integration of two new first-graders, a Japanese boy and a Spanish girl, into the class. The ways in which their two cultures differ is cleverly interwoven in the story in a precise and humorous narrative, which is supported by convincing illustrations. An interesting Japanese contribution to the topic of cultural integration.(6+) ✧ ○

✧ books whose content is found contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples

○ books with easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics

East Asian Languages

Republic of China (Taiwan)

14
Li, T'ung (text)
Chang, Tze-ming (illus.)
Yin Ma-tzu (The birthday of the goddess Matsu)
Taipei: Commission for the Promotion of Agriculture, 1993. [24pp]
ISBN 957-00-2775-4
China/Religion - Temple/Procession - Goddess/Sea - Patron saint/Fisher

The birthday of Matsu, the patron saint of the fishers and goddess of the seas, is celebrated at the temple and with a procession on the 23rd day of the third moon. When Hai-ji's father is asked to be a sedan carrier in the procession, Hai-ji goes back home to wait with his grandmother for the procession to pass by. Grandmother sends Hai-hi and his mother to the temple to look for the father, but the square is too full and they cannot find him among the sedan carriers. When the procession reaches their house, the father slips out of the costume of one of Matsu's guards, who according to legend can see everything for 1000 miles around. Hai-ji asks his father why he didn't see him son when he was looking for him earlier. The father laughs and they all begin to pray as the sedan carriers of the goddess reach their house. The energy present among the people during this ceremonial procession, which is portrayed in a fold-out panorama, is captured in the red color dominating this picture book. (5+) ✧

15
Liu, Po-lo (text/illus.)
Hei-pai Tz'un-chunag (The black village and the white village)
Taipei: Hsin-yi Publications, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 957-642-206-X
Equality - Appearances - Difference - Living conditions

The people from Whiteside harvest plants from which flour is made, making the entire village and its inhabitants all white. The people in Blackfalls are quite different. The mine for coal and store coal everywhere in the village, making themselves black and dirty. Because of their different colors, they don't like each other. When the circus comes the people from Whiteside only cheer when white women and white horses perform; the inhabitants of Blackfalls cheer only for the black panthers. They are all terribly afraid that there might be a wedding one day between a Whitesider and Blackfallser,who would later have black-and-white children looking like zebras. Their animosity is resolved one day when it rains and their external differences are washed away; their true appearance becomes visible, making it clear that all people are alike underneath. This is a story with a moral, accompanied by interesting illustrations of everyday life in Taiwanese villages. (6+) ✧

16
P'u, Sung ling (text)
Chen, Guhang et.al. (illus.)
Liao-tsai Chih-yi (Strange stories from a Chinese studio)
Transl. by Wanruo Xie, Kenneth Lee, and Ching-wen Chang
With illus. Bi-lingual text (English/Chinese)
Taipei: Han-kwang (Hilit), 1990; Beijin: Prospect Publishing House, 1990. 224pp
ISBN 957-629-048-4
(Chung-kuo Shih-ta ku-tien Wen-hsüeh Min-chu Hua-chi, 10; A pictorial series of ten greatest Chinese literature classics. Vol. 10)
Short stories/Chinese - Human character

At the age of forty, P'u Sung-ling (1640-1715) began his writings of what in the end numbered 431 short stories. Legend has it that he set up a tea-stand on a street corner and offered passers-by tea for free if they would tell him a story. He was an ironic critic of his times, especially of the corrupt government service and the injust legal system. He tried numerous times to pass the examination for the higher civil service, succeeding only at the age of 72. In these seven short stories the various sides of the human character and the virtues to be learned from ethereal spirits are portrayed. Seven contemporary Chinese artists have contributed authentic illustrations in Chinese style, making this volume interesting not only to the general public, but also to specialists. (14+) ✧

Albania

17
Grillo, Odhise K.(adapter)
Shahini, Jusuf (cover illus.)
Lahuta e malsise (The lute of the highlands)
(Based on a story by Gjergj Fishta)
Tiranë: Dituria, 1993. 103pp
No ISBN
and
18
Grillo, Odhise K. (adapter)
Tafa, Gëzim (illus.)
Thike pas shpine... (The knife in the back)
Tiranë: Naim Frashëri, 1993. 96pp
(Based on stories by Jeronim de RADA and Gavril DARA)
No ISBN
National identity/Albania - Albania/Independence

Both of these titles contain adaptations for young readers of three works of Albanian literature which have played a great role in the formation of the Albanian national identity. These works were banned during the socialist era and their authors expurged from annals of Albanian literary history. In the three-part epic "The lute of the highlands", which was published between 1905 and 1937 by the Northern Albanian Franciscan priest Gjergj Fishta (1871-1940), the struggle of the Albanian people for autonomy between 1858 and 1913 is described. Fishta draws an exact picture of life in the raw mountainous regions and of the ancient common law of the Albanian tribes. "The Knife in the Back" is a retelling of the rather less well-known poem "Serafina Topia" (1843) by Jeronim de Rada (1814-1903) and contained in the same volume "The Call of Blood" is a retelling of "Kënga e sprapme e Balës" by Gavril Dara." (10+)

Croatia

19
Balog, Zvonimir (text)
Janjić-Jobo, Ratko (cover illus.)
Male ljudetine (Little big people)
Zagreb: Znanje 1993. 147pp
(hit junior 49)
ISBN 953-6124-14-9
Short story/Croatian - Wordplay

Zvonimir Balog is one of the best, most popular and versatile Croatian writers for children and young people. In his newest work he combines his narrative skills with a playfulness already familiar in his poetry. This witty and at the same time comical book begins with a very short story about a more or less idyllic childhood in the country which is abruptly interrupted by war. The story is then retold in about 60 national, social, grammatic and play-on-words variations. In the course of this the story changes in content and in style, achieving an unbelievable comic effect which can perhaps be best compared with John Lennon's "In His Own Write." (10+)

East and South-East European Languages

Czech Republic

20
Hájek, Štépán (text)
Vagnerová, Jitka (illus.)
Jak Vosolbrčko cestoval (Travels of a water sprite)
Praha: Kalich 1992. 30pp
ISBN 80-7017-576-1
Water sprite

This tale with a quite unspectacular fable deals with the journey of a water sprite (the protagonist of many Czech fairy tales) to his brother's birthday party. After having problems on a train, he gives a try at hitchhiking and is picked up by a car in which three other watermen are riding, all going to the very same birthday party. Ordinary experiences are reported in an original and witty style of speech and with dry humor. Though this is an easy-to-read book for the native speaker, the idiomatic vernacular might present some problems for others. The volume is richly illustrated with eccentric, expressive pictures. (5+)

21
Kopta, Josef (text)
Kačírek, Miloš (illus.)
Chytrý Honza z Čech
(The clever Honza from Bohemia)
Ostrava: Blesk 1992. 102pp
ISBN 80-85606-05-4
Fairy tales/Bohemia

The Honza, a dim-witted fool, is a very popular figure in Czech folklore. As with all fools, he is not really dumb, he merely has a very naive manner of dealing with problems and for all his dauntlessness gets the better of many "cleverer" people. This very attractively designed volume with colored pen-and-ink drawings contains two stories about Honza. The first tells how he had to set out in the world and withstand all sorts of temptations in order to win his beloved Kačenka. The second story is an original tale by the author. (6+)

22
Richter, Vratislav Asad (text)
Krasný, P. Jan (illus.)
Sedm kupců: Příběhy z orientu
(The seven merchants: adventure stories from the Orient)
Praha: Chvojkovo nakladatelství, 1994. 78pp
ISBN 80900239-7-5
Fairy tales/Near East

Vratislav Asad Richter, a Czech captain and admirer of the Orient who lives in Canada, has gathered together a particularly fine collection of tales from the Maghreb and the Near East, which he has compiled as stories within a story. Seven merchants traveling with their caravans through the Sahara Desert meet one night at the Oase Ouargla in a local caravansary and exchange tales about love and suffering, psychic experiences and battles. (10+)

23
Šiktanc, Karel (text)
Skála, František (illus.)
Královské pohádky (The tales of kings)
Praha: Albatros, 1994. 181pp
ISBN 80-00-00262-0
Modern fairy tales/Czech - Justice

Though the tales of Karel Šiktanc are not derived directly from the traditional folklore, they employ the same atmosphere and consciously use its style of plot. And another element these literary fairy tales have in common with the folk tales is the eternal human longing for a just world, where there is no place for lies, meanness and jealousy. From 1961 until 1971, when he was forced out, Šiktanc was editor-in-chief of the publishing house for young adult literature, "Mladá fronta". Scheduled for publication in 1970, these fairy tales of kings were repressed for political reasons.

From 1971 until the political transformation of 1989 in Czechoslovakia no book by Karel Šiktanc was permitted to be published. The avant-garde illustrations intensively reflect the mood of the tales. (10+)

Poland

24
Siesicka, Krystyna (text)
Studio Siedmoróg (graphics)
Chwileczkę, Walerio… (Just a minute, Valeria)
Wrocław: Siedmoróg, 1994. 128pp
ISBN 83-85959-70-X
Zakopane - Love - Drugs - Generational conflict

The journalist and popular young adult author Krystyna Siesicka was awarded a prize by the Polish IBBY section for this unusual novel for girls. She describes a vacation in Zakopane (in the Tatra Mountains) which she spent with the protagonist, Valeria, and takes up different problems facing Polish teenagers today - love, generational conflict, family, interpersonal relationships, drugs - in a very sympathetic and vivid manner. In addition, she lets Valeria herself express her opinions and speak directly to the reader, even posing questions. The book's design is equally unusual: the cover shows a photo of the protagonist against the background of a work by Gustav Klimt. The pages on which Valeria speaks are decorated in Art Nouveau style and illustrated with reproductions of famous artists from Manet to Dali. Furthermore this volume contains poems which fit the respective subject matter by the popular poet Maria Jasnorzewska-Pawlikowska (1893-1945), who has been very popular with Polish youth since the 1960s. (12+)

Romania

25
Zamfirescu, George M. (text)
Bercaru, Al. (illus.)
Sufletul soldaţilor de plumb (The soul of the tin soldiers)
Bucureşti: Ed. Arta grafică, 1993. 58pp
(Legende, mituri şi povestiri)
ISBN 973-9010-24-5
Bible story

The first edition of this book appeared in a period of war. Shocked by what he experienced, the author warns the younger generation of dangers which threaten human existence, such as hate, bloodthirstiness, etc. The tales in this book can be divided into two catagories. One group reports of more or less realistic events from which the child should take a lesson: "Mother", the story of an overconfident little mouse; "The tears of a blade of grass" - a disobedient little dog jumps at the throat of the neighbor's mut; "Nightingale and ox" and "The soul of the tin soldiers", which is the least sad of them all, even glowing with humor. The second group consist of legends, such as "Simion from Capernaum", a biblical story of the crucifixion, "Setilă" or "Legends", in which the author gives his version of the Christianization of Hungary. (9+) ✧

26
Marian, Simion F. (ed.)
Tache, Margareta (illus.)
Legende de Crăciun (Christmas legends)
Bucureşti: Ed. Scripta, 1991 (first ed. 1904). 61pp
ISBN 973-95414-9-6
Christmas/Romania/Legends

The Romanian people have a wealth of legends, customs and interesting beliefs associated with Christmas. This is the first time that stories were written down in a form and idiom appropriate for children and united the biblical legends with the Romanian Orthodoy tradition and elements of folklore. One of the legends is even presented into two different versions, one from the Wallachia and one from the Buchovinia. In the course of time many legends, "colinde" and songs have been developed which are known wherever Romanians live." (10+)

Russia

27

Čarskaja, Lidija Alekseevna (d.i.: L.A. Čurilova)
Sudaruškin, A.I. et.al. (illus.)
Zapiski institutki (Notes of a boarding-school girl)
Moskva: Respublika, 1994. 382pp
ISBN 5-250-01891-2
St. Petersburg - Boarding school/Girl - Caucasus - Multicultural Society

In addition to the novel of the title, this book by Lidija Alekseevna Čarskaja (1875-1937) also contains the novel titled "Ljuda Vlassovskaja" (orig. publ. in 1904 under the title "Ludmila Vlassovskaja"). After the Russian Revolution the works of Čarskaja received negative reviews and were forbidden as bourgeois literature, even though the famous children's book author and scholar of children's literature Kornei Chukovsky held her in high regard. In the title novel and in the first part of the biography of Ljuda Vlassovskaja she depicts life in a girls' boarding school in St. Petersburg at the end of the 19th century, with all its good and bad sides. She explores the girls' problems and describes in detail their feelings. In the latter novel, the author takes up a theme that is traditional in Russian literature and once again current interest: the multicultural society in Causasus. If history had taken a different course in her lifetime, Čarskaja would well have become the leading Russian writer for young girls. The re-issues of her works helps to make conscious the tradition so abruptly broken off in 1917. (10+)

28

Černyj, Saša (Engl.: Sascha Czerny, pseud. for Aleksandr M. Glikberg)
Prichod'ko, Vladimir (ed.)
Jakušin, M.M. (illus.)
Jakušina, L.A. (illus.)
Čto komu nravitsja: Stichi, skazki, rasskazy, povesti
(Something for everyone: verses, tales, stories)
Moskva: Molodaja gvardija, 1993. 445pp
ISBN 5-235-02123-1
Fairy tales/Russia - Short stories/Russia

Sascha Czerny (born in Odessa, 1880 - died in La Lavandou, 1932) made a name for himself in St. Petersburg as a children's book author and satirist; after the Russian Revolution he emigrated first to Berlin where he continued to publish prolifically in the 1920s (in Russian). While his poems appeared already in the 1960s in the Soviet Union, a children's book was first published during the *perestroika*. This volume is a wide sampling of his works of children. Both Czerny's lyrical works and his stories and fairy tales - many dealing with animals and children's everyday life and often written from their own perspective - are still satisfying today both in speech and form as well as in their empathy or their satirical undertone. This volume also contains the picture book "The lively ABC" (which first appeared in Leipzig in 1922 with pictures by an unnamed illustrator) in which Czerny unites two animals in comical seven-syllable, two-line verses. (5+)

East and South-East European Languages

29
Lamm, Nikolaj Viktorovič (text)
Martynov, Andrej E. (illus.)
Pochiščenie damy ili četvero idut po sledu (The abduction of the lady, or four trace the clues)
Moskva: Zolotoj ključik, 1993. 59pp
ISBN 5-87523-008-8
Abduction - Mafia/Russia - Social satire/Russia
Through in one way following the tradition of Russian stories for children, the author of this book nonetheless takes a new path. Full of irony and with many allusions to Russian society before and after the fall of the Communist regime, he depicts the abduction of a young girl and her friends' efforts to find and rescue her. The irony of the text finds continuity in the (especially the full-paged) illustrations. (10+)

Slovakia

30
Beňo, Ján (text)
Ondreička, Karol (illus.)
Starý husár a nočný Čert (The old husar and the night devil)
Bratislava: Slovenský spisovateľ 1994. 123pp
ISBN 80-220-0425-1
Slovakia/Folktales
The popular Slovakian children's book author retells especially interesting unpublished folktales which he heard from Michal Pavlovič, a farmer from Prievaly. (6+)

31
Hevier, Daniel et.al. (text)
Bajusová, Oľga (illus.)
Päť prštekov na ruke: Obrázková kniha a posunková reč pre najmenšie nepočujúce deti (Five Fingers on the Hand: A Picture Book with Sign-language for Very Young Deaf Children)
Bratislava: BUVIK, 1994. 63pp
ISBN 80-85507-18-8
Deafness - Sign language
The first third of this picture book for deaf children and their parents contains a short story from everyday life on one side of each spread while the opposite page the words and concepts of the text are elucidated with photos of sign language. This is followed by an ABC and set of numbers presented in photos. The final eight pages include a further 100 concepts in sign language with written explanations. (3+)

32
Kuniak, Juraj (text)
Čech, Juraj (photos)
Súkromný skanzen (My private open-air museum)
Ružomberk: Matica slovenská, 1994. 94pp
ISBN 80-900504-5-X
Slovakia/Country life
This volume contains impressions of the country life in the region of Ružomberok (German: Rosenberg) on the southern side of the Tatra Mountains in Slovakia written in a free-flowing rhythm and lyrical prose by a 40-year-old electrical engineer. The narrative is based on ethnic situations and includes a variety of persons but a specific plot is not evident. The text can be taken either seriously or ironically, and some elements in it tend toward the grotesque. The excellent black-and-white photographs by the lawyer Juraj Čech follow suit with the text. On the one hand, they portray nostalgic and melancholy objects and scenery of central Slovakia, while on the other hand they have a touch of irony and social criticism. The book will appeal especially to young adult readers who are seeking a path for themselves between progress and a tradition-bound life-style. (12+)

East and South-East European Languages

33
Sef, Roman (text)
Požidaev, Leonid (illus.)
Karnaval. (The carnival)
Engl. Transl.: Paul Lewis.
Musik: I. Kataev u. M. Minkov.
Moskva: ADP, 1994. 57pp
ISBN 5-87523-012-6
Poetry/Nonsense - Multilingual book

In this bilingual picture book in verse Roman Sef proves once again his craftsmanship as the best contemporary Russian poet. The witty poems, which are striking in their simplicity, belong to the tradition of English nonsense verse and occasionally remind one of the works of the German children's poets Josef Guggenmos and Hans Manz from Switzerland. Sef's style is also successfully captures in the English translation by Paul Lewis. (4+)

Slovenia

34
Fritz, Ervin (text)
Vogelnik, Eka (illus.)
Svet v naprstniku (The world in a thimble)
Ljubljana: DZS, 1994. 56pp
ISBN 86-341-0834-1
Poetry/Slovene

This is the first children's book by the Slovenian playwright and poet Ervin Fritz (born 1940). As in his poetry for adults, Fritz's poetry for children is at times funny, at other times profound. This volume includes serious poems, nonsense verses, counting rhymes and ridicule verses in a idiosyncratic manner of speech. The three-color illustrations done with mixed technique and high-quality, attractive graphic design contribute to the book's overall appeal. (6+)

35
Zorman, Ivo (text)
Stančič, Zora (illus.)
Boleščina odraščanja (The growing up disease)
Ljubljana: DZS, 1994. 151pp
(Veliki otroci, 2)
ISBN 86-341-1050-8
Slovenia/School holiday - Adventure

The popular Slovenian children's and youth book author depicts here the experiences of a group of teenagers during the school holidays in the Slovenian mountains in a very funny and humorous manner. The reader gets a glimpse into the contemporary lifestyle in Slovenia, especially the conflicts present within the family, at school, and between generations. The protagonists become involved in a theft and fraud. This is a quite literary, but easy-to-read entertainment novel. (9+) ☼

English Language

Australia

36
Gilbert, Kevin (Text)
Williams, Eleanor (Photos)
Me and Mary Kangaroo
Ringwood: Viking/Penguin Books Australia, 1994. 54pp
ISBN 0-670-85284-8
Kangaroo - Child/Pet - Aborigine/-Australia/Memoir

Kevin Gilbert (1933-1993) was a noted New Zealand author, publicist and activist for the rights of the Aboriginal peoples. In this childhood memoir he relates many humorous, playful episodes in his relationship with the orphaned kangaroo he kept as a pet until she returned one day to the bush. Written in the style of oral storytelling, it is laced with details of everyday family life in this remote rural area. Mary was not only his best friend and playmate, but forever the incarnation of a deep affinity Gilbert felt for his homeland. The appealing sepia-toned photographs of a young Aboriginal boy and another kangaroo suggest the nostalgia of a family photo album. (7+) ✧

37
Hands Up! Who enjoyed their schooldays.
Compiled by Barbara Ker Wilson.
St. Lucia: University of Queensland, 1994. 141pp
ISBN 0-7022-24510-X
School - Australia/Short stories/Anthology
Short stories and excerpts from the works of leading writers of Australian youth literature have been selected by a well-known editor to present stories about a wide array of memorable, though not always pleasant experiences at school. The wide variety of topics reflects different eras, types of schools, and socioeconomic backgrounds. (12+) ✧

38
Horniman, Joanne
The serpentine belt
Norwood: Omnibus Books/Aston Scholastic, 1994. 119pp
ISBN 1-86291-207-6
Father/Death - Self-discovery - Friendship/Change
Sixteen-year old Emily is a quiet, reclusive type of person who watches and reflects on everything going on around her. Her best friend Kat, an Aborigine from an extended family of siblings and cousins, is a completely different type of person. Though they once had much in common, they are beginning to drift apart. Emily's discovery of her dead father's cryptic diary occupies her mind constantly, until she finally learns the true circumstances of his death. In this appropriately slow-paced, reflective novel the first-person narration of Emily's inner world and her perception of the people and activity around her is a sensitive character study of a girl passing through an important stage of emotional growth. (14+)

☺ *Special Mention*

39
Kelleher, Victor
Parkland
Ringwood: Viking/Penguin Books, 1994. 255pp
ISBN 0-670-85904-4
Fantasy - Man/Animal - Genetic experimentation - Difference/Tolerance - Extraterrestial beings/Intelligence - Freedom - Friendship - Change - Survival
For nearly two centuries artificially bred humans and man-ape hybrids have lived together in harmony and docility in a high-walled enclosure, guarded by keepers who supply all their needs but also mete out sadistic punishments when necessary. The strong-willed, curious Cassie and her two intelligent, hybrid friends manage to break out of the enclosure. After their disasterous flight to freedom they return reluctantly to Parkland, where they finally break the mastery of the keepers and learn why those extraterrestial beings had become "cosmic gardeners" with a mission to maintain diversity and harmony in the galaxy. This masterly written novel with strong characterizations challenges the imagination of the reader on every page and poses basic questions about human life, attitudes toward fellow creatures, and the abilty to create and control life and society. (14+) ✧

40
Pugh, Dailan (illus)
Dunkle, Margaret (text)
Secrets of the rainforest
South Melbourne: Hyland House, 1994. [32pp]

ISBN 1-875657-11-8

Rainforest - Conservation - Australia/Flora and fauna

Unlike Europe or North America, children in some parts of Australia have the opportunity to walk directly from their homes into a rainforest with stunning, century-old vegetation still inhabited by rare and endangered species of animals. In this picture book for primary school children Kevin, son of a logger, takes a walk for the first time in the local rainforest with environmentally concerned classmates whom he had once dubbed "the greenie mob." Overwhelmed by its beauty, which is realistically presented in full-paged gouache paintings, Kevin realizes the need to prevent further destruction of this unique natural habitat. The at times lengthy text serves to describe the habits and needs of the various animal species, making Kevin's growing social awareness plausible. While the intention of the book is undoubtedly moralistic, it is tastefully presented in a very attractive and informative format. (5+) ☼

41

Rodda, Emily (text)

Kelly, Geoff (illus.)

Power and glory

St. Leonards: A Little Ark Book/Allen & Unwin, 1994. [32pp]

ISBN 1-86373-677-8

Video game - Family life - Challenge

By dealing with an activity close to their hearts and high on their minds, children who are reluctant to read might be drawn to this story about a video game player. In fact an easy-to-read book with an unconventional layout, it employs repetitive, situational vocabulary and hilarious caricatures of family life situations. The narrative tension between the all-absorbing challenge of a video game of skill and adventure and the continual interruptions by parents, siblings and pet, each with their own demands is as hilarious as it is realistic. Geoff Kelly has chosen an avant-garde style of illustration which resembles but in no way imitates video graphics. (6-8) ☼

Canada

42

Lewis, Amanda (text)

Wynne-Jones, Tim (text)

Slavin, Bill (illus.)

Rosie backstage

Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1994. 95pp

ISBN 1-55074-148-9

Theater - Shakespeare, William

The many aspects of a theater production are presented here not in a direct, nonfictional format, but embedded in a story about a young girl who gets to know real people working in a real repertory theater. And at the fantasy level she has repeated encounters with (an otherwise invisible) Will Shakespeare. In between each of the nine chapters, terms and concepts of the various departments of a theater are explained in a readable style which avoids a definitional tone. The book is attractively colorful and uniformly illustrated with realistic but expressive scenes on each page, which are designed to illuminate the text and ideas in a natural manner. It is well-suited to motivating young readers to get involved with some aspect of theater themselves. (8-12)

Great Britain

43

Breslin, Theresa

Kezzie

London: Methuen, 1993. 157pp

ISBN 0-416-18877-X

Child Migration/UK/Canada - Scotland - Mining - Father/Death -

Family/Seperation
A realistic portrayal of living conditions in a Scottish mining community in 1937, when hard work, meager food, and little security was the order of the day, forms the background for the first half of this compelling story. The accidental death of their father and son brings sudden impoverishment and eviction to Kezzie, Lucie and their grandfather. Due to two unfortunate mishaps on one day, the younger sister is mistakenly included in an orphan transport to Canada, leaving Kezzie no choice but to go to Canada, too. The second half of the novel describes how Kezzie finds and rescues the thoroughly traumatized child. Breslin, 1987 winner of the Scottish Kathleen Fidler Award for a first novel, has a special talent for capturing natural speech and for weaving a story full of life-like characters. This novel is immediately striking, not only for its eloquence but also for its portrayal of endurance, human goodness and love in the face of misfortune.(12+) ✧
(Shortlisted for the 1994 Federation of Children's Book Groups Award)

☺ *Special Mention*

44
Fine, Anne
Step by wicked step
London: Hamish Hamilton, 1995. 135pp
ISBN 0-241-00161-7
Stepparent - Family problems
Even if this book by one of England's best contemporary authors had appeared anonymously, its success would be guaranteed by the immediately absorbing narrative with its masterful combination of suspense and sensitive delving into the hearts and minds of appealing and believable main characters. Five twelve-year-old classmates who know each other only superficially accidentally discover the memoir of a man with a tragic family history in a hidden room of an old spooky manor. A chance find, a cryptic word from their teacher and an all-night round of storytelling begins, in which each tells about his or her own family problems and gains insight into the difficult choices and emotional turmoil facing each of the others. The common bond between them all is the presence of stepparents in their lives. This is a book which will be read in one sitting and still be (hauntingly) memorable long after. (10+)

45
Hathorn, Libby (text)
Rogers, Gregory (illus.)
Way home
London: Andersen Press, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 0-86264-541-7
Homelessness - Boy - Cat - Friendship
The white-on-black text and the skillfully composed dark, sombre illustrations immediately identify this book as one dealing with a "problem": the underside of life, street life, in a metropolitan city in a modern affluent society. It depicts an hour in the life of a boy of the street - in which such a picture book would have no place - who empathizes with and adopts a stray cat as company. Together they return through the ugly back alleys to the hole he proudly calls "home." Lacking in any didacticism, direct in its tone, impeccably designed, the book cannot fail to make a lasting impression on any reader willing to face its chilling truth. (8+)

46
McKay, Hilary
The exiles at home
London: Victor Gollancz, 1993.
(Paperback: London: Lions/HarperCollins, 1994. 173pp)
ISBN 0-00674644-6
Siblings - School - Africa - Charity -

Grandmother - Elderly

This is an engrossing and well-paced family story in the excellent British storytelling tradition. The four Conroy sisters, aged between thirteen and six years, have not changed a bit in this sequel to the Guardian award-winning title *The Exiles* (1991). The thread running through the narrative revolves around the girls' efforts to acquire £10 month after month to send to a 10-year-old African boy whose education the girls have decided secretly to sponsor. They get involved in numerous escapades by sitting for the baby next door, selling packed lunches at school, robbing the postbank, selling their mother's books, or gardening for an elderly couple. Each of the girls has a distinctive personality within the family, and alone or together their actions and idiosyncratic reasoning ensure the reader one laugh after another. (9+) ✧ ○
(Overall winner, 1994 Smarties Award)

47
Ure, Jean (text)
Hellard, Susan (illus.)
Who's for the zoo?
London: Orchard, 1995 (text first publ. 1989). 64pp
(Readalones)
ISBN 1-85213 662 6
School - Zoo - Animal rights

The Orchard "Readalone" series offer a wide range of easy-to-read stories written by some of the UK's most popular and humorous contemporary writers and illustrators for children, such as Rose Impey, Mary Hoffman or Jonathan Allen. With this sixth installment in her "Woodside School Stories series" the versatile Jean Ure manages to portray a cast of individual characters and tackle a topic of social concern. When one pupil in her classroom hesitantly reveals her dismay at the planned school excursion to the zoo, the teacher finds a clever way to let the rest of the pupils reflect on how it might feel to be kept in a cage and gawked at. The somewhat larger type and black-and-white sketches make these titles attractive additions for home, school and public libraries, while the choice of topics makes them suitable for readers of English as a second language. (7-9) ○

India

48
Kapur, Jusum (text)
Sumaty, N. (illus.)
Stories from Ladakh
New Delhi: Indus/HarperCollins, 1994. 112pp
ISBN 81-7223-115-6
Ladakh/Folk tales - Greed - Love - Cleverness

This is a collection of nine long tales from a district in the northern-most province of India. While the names and places are distinctly Indian, the morals of the stories are universal. Alongside the human figures, talking animals play a notable role in most of the tales. While the good or evil character of the protagonists plays a certain role in the development of each tale, twists of fate, whim or chance luck sometimes lead to surprising outcomes. Some tales, such as that of the three brothers who inherit equal shares from their well-intentioned father, will call to mind the morals of well-known folk tales, while others help to illuminate Indian thinking and life. This is a well-written volume which will enrich any folk tale collection. (8+) ✧

✧ books whose content is found contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples

○ books with easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics

49
Mitra, Rathabali (text)
Harichandan, Deepak (illus.)
Kalapani
New Delhi: Children's Book Trust, 1993. 64pp
ISBN 81-7011-656-2
Andaman Islands - Nicobar Islands - Holiday

This book is essentially a non-fictional social geography of India's Bay Islands which stretch over 900 square kilometers in the Bay of Bengal between Burma and Indonesia, but the factual information is framed within a fictional story about an Indian family visiting the islands on holiday. The children's questions throughout the four-day ship journey and on the islands help them to learn about the many animals they encounter, the sea- and landscapes, the tropical rain forest, endangered species and even the historical background of an infamous prison which is now a National Monument commemorating the struggle for Indian independence. This travelogue reads very smoothly and entertainingly, allowing the reader to absorb a wealth of information. A number of pen-and-ink illustrations depict the Indian family's sightseeing stops. (8+) ✧ ☼
(Second Prize, Natural History category, WWF/CBF Competition)

50
Stories from Premchand
New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House, 1986 (repr. 1994). 112pp
(Madhuban Supplementary Readers)
ISBN 0-7069-8228-2
India/Hindi/Short Stories - Human nature

Munshi Premchand (1880-1936), a school teacher, was one of India's most important Hindi writers in the 20th century, but his works have not been easily accessible in English. His over 300 short stories deal in particular with the common people and injustice. Though these ten tales are gathered in a supplemental educational reader for young adults and are followed up with several comprehension questions, the narrative style and content of the stories warrant their being made available more widely. Each one deals with a key event in the life of a child, of a family or among friends, by force of which a small kernel of life's wisdom - about friendship, love, rivalry, hypocricy, or reconciliation - becomes clearer to those involved. Premchand's style is descriptive, even somewhat flowery, and filled with lively dialogues; yet it is easy to follow and suitable for the intermediate reading level. (12+) ✧ ☼

Ireland

51
Parkinson, Siobhán
No peace for Amelia
Dublin: O'Brien Press, 1994. 215pp
ISBN 0-86278-378-X
Ireland/World War I - War - Ireland/Easter uprising - Friendship

Decisive personal decisions in the lives of two young men (and their families) in Dublin in the spring of 1916 are depicted here in alternating chapters from the point of view of a thirteen-year-old Quaker girl, Amelia Pim, and that of her friend, the household servant, Mary Ann. While Frederick, Amelia's best beau, has patriotically signed up in the British army to fight in the Great European War, Mary Ann's brother, Patrick, is an Volunteer for the cause of Irish independence. The author skillfully uses this constellation to present two types of armed struggle and show how the different positions taken depend on the individual positions in life. The characterizations are strong and convincing, the interjection of historical facts into the plot judicious. This suspenseful sequel to "Amelia", which was shortlisted for Ireland's Bisto Book of the Year Award, will leave the reader most eager for the next sequel. ✧ (12+)

New Zealand

52

Barnett, Rosalyn (Selector)

Bowles, Trish (Ill.)

Sun days & moon nights.

Wellington: Mallinson Rendel, 1994. 63pp

ISBN 0-90806-98-2

New Zealand/Short stories/Anthology - Folktales/New Zealand - Everyday Life/New Zealand

This anthology of ten stories for young readers and read-aloud storytelling ranges from light-hearted adventure tales to episodes of family life to special moments in a child's life to folk and fairy tales. Underlying each story are elements of human nature such as greed or ambition or the human condition which require learning to appreciate differences. The water-color illustrations enhance the volume with humor and imagination. Some of the stories have Maori characters and vocabulary, while others could be set almost anywhere on earth, making this a volume attractive to school and library collections around the world. (6+) ✧ ☼

South Africa

53

Randall, Isobel (text)

Sothoane, Zacharia (illus.)

Busisiwe's bicycle

Manzini: Macmillan Boleswa Publishers, 1993. 30pp

ISBN 0-333-59103-8

Africa/Rural life - Grandparent/Grandchild - Dream/Bicycle - Child/Money

A young Black girl's dream of owning her own bicycle seems unattainable until, with the help of her grandfather, she earns money by selling vegetables from her own garden. When her little brother needs to be hospitalized, she instead gives this money to her grandparents. Again raising money with handmade toys to be sold in the big city, the dream is finally fulfilled after a long wait. The ambitious black-and-white pencil sketches on each page of text realistically depict the steppe-like rural landscape and the very simple life-style of the farming family in a manner which may appeal to the child's eye more than the eye of the professional art critic. This is an authentic story of rural Africa which draws on everyday life rather than on folk-tales or social problems. (7+) ✧ ☼

54

Robson, Jenny

Mellow Yellow

Cape Town: Tafelberg, 1994. 138pp

ISBN 0-624-03297-3

Cape Town/Street life - Orphan - Reading - Friendship - Survival

For several years the abandoned child and runaway, Mess (nicknamed Mellow Yellow), has been fending for himself in the streets of Cape Town. He survives through his association with a gang of street kids, whose teenaged leader, Space Gun, who sets down strict rules that give order to their lives. Mess's dream, his life-motivation, is to learn to read in order to understand the piece of green paper, the key to his real identity, which he wears hidden in a tin box around his neck. One day on a whim he asks a posh schoolboy, Henry, at the train station to teach him to read and through their ensuing friendship ultimately finds his grandfather. Henry's encounter with Mess and the street gang brings about dramatic changes in each of their lives and leads to a happy end in this fast-paced, compelling novel. (12+) ✧

USA

55

Arnold, Katya (adapt./illus.)
Knock, knock, Teremok! A traditional Russian tale
New York: North-South Books, 1994. [28pp]
ISBN 1-55858-329-7
Diversity - Co-existence - Story in verse

One after another eight different animals, each seeking a new home, join a fly who has taken up residence in a wooden hut, a teremok. But when the bear tries to fit in, too, he causes the roof to collapse on them all. The humorous, repetitive text is composed in a sing-song manner, ideal for reading aloud and letting young listeners participate. In a note for adults Arnold mentions that she also sees her text as an allegory of the collapse of the socialist ideal, which she also eludes to with a portrait of Lenin in the teremok. The illustrations are a cumulative collage of bold water-colors with contrasting black outlines perfectly supplementing the text. (4-7) ✧ ○

56

Dorris, Michael
Guests
New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1994. 119pp
ISBN 0-7868-00477-X
Identity - Family conflict - USA-/Indians/Whites/Friendship

Opening oneself to new knowledge, finding the answer to "who am I?", the power of cultural patterns and expectations are the underlying themes of this fictionalized historical novel. Key experiences in the lives of a young Indian boy and Indian girl are set against the background of one of the first significant encounters of their Indian tribe with white English colonists (possibly the Plymouth Rock colony in 1620). The narrative explores both the clash between the two cultures, the impatience of a young boy who yearns for acceptance into adulthood and the turmoil of a young girl of the same age who wants to escape the female role expectations she soon will be forced to fulfill. The Indian way of life is portrayed as one of respect for nature and for the tribe's long-standing traditions; and both are linked by the wisdom passed down through oral storytelling. Though it covers only one day, the highly readable narrative includes a series of encounters between persons and generations in the village and the natural surroundings to portray the adventure of growing up in those days in a compelling manner. (10+) ✧ ○

57

Fisher, Leonard Everett (text/illus.)
Kinderdike
New York: Macmillan, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 0-02-735365-6
Netherlands/Folklore - Flood dike

An historical event in Holland in 1421 forms the basis for Fisher's lyrical text, which is printed one line at a time on stunning acrylic double-spread illustrations. The scenes depict the simple life of a village near the sea during each season of the year. After a spring gale floods the shore, destroying all the houses and windmills, the villagers nonetheless decide to rebuild again on the same spot. The simplicity of the colorful landscape scenes and the subtle details of Holland's way of life will undoubtedly appeal to young viewers. (3+)

✧ books whose content is found contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples

○ books with easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics

58
Freedman, Russell
Kids at work. Lewis Hine and the crusade against child labor.
Photos: Lewis Hine
New York: Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 194pp.
ISBN 0-395-58703-4
USA/Children/Work - Social Reform - Hine, Lewis (1874-1940)

This is in fact two stories of differing scope, but inextricably bound up together and excellently related by one of the USA's leading authors of non-fiction. On the one hand, the social, political and economic conditions which led to the appalling exploitation of millions of children between three and sixteen years of age by industry and commerce in the 19th and 20th century is an aspect of social history which has received little attention up to now. The courageous efforts of individuals and organizations to engender moral indignation and legal barriers against this form of child abuse makes up the other side of the story. In 1908 Lewis Hine became an investigative photographer in the service of one of most important causes of his time and undoubtedly contributed to the gradual progress in this area of social justice. Using dozens of Hine's moving photos on full-page spreads throughout the book, Freedman smoothly interweaves the course of this still incomplete social reform movement and Hine's own biography in a highly readable and unforgettable text. (10+) ✧

59
Kleven, Elisa (text/illus.)
The paper princess
New York: Dutton, 1994. [30pp]
ISBN 0-525-45231-1
Doll - Imagination - Homecoming

One day a young girl draws a princess on a piece of paper and cuts it out. Before she can give it hair, a gust of wind carries the simple paper figure up and away in the sky. The paper princess encounters different kinds of people and animals who care for her during her journey, but she longs to return home and be finished by her little girl. Her open, upright manner ultimately enables her wish to come true and the happiness at her homecoming is great and genuine. The simplicity of the paper doll and her little girl is cleverly counterpointed by the very colorful and elaborately detailed full-paged collage illustrations which children and adults will find stimulating and memorable. (4-7) ☼

60
Kurtz, Jane (text)
Lewis, E.B. (illus.)
Fire on the mountain
New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 0-671-88268-6
Folktale/Ethiopia - Cleverness - Rich/Poor

As is common to all folktales, this brief story describes an aspect of human nature, a conflict of interests, its resolution. Here a greedy rich man takes pleasure in lording over his servants until he is challenged by a young shepherd boy who speaks the truth instead of kowtowing to the boastful, haughty master. The boy wins a wager with the master, who however refuses to pay the agreed price until the boy´s sister and the other servants jointly outwit him, finally risking to show their defiance and demand for justice. The well-drawn watercolor illustrations set the tale in rural Ethiopia, giving the reader a glimpse into another way of life. (6+) ✧ ☼

✧ books whose content is found contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples

☼ books with easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics

61
L´Engle, Madelaine
Troubling a star
New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1994. 296pp
ISBN 0-374-37783-9
Antarctica - Ecosystem - Love - Friendship
Many of the story elements which characterize L´Engle´s young adult novels are present here once again: intelligent, upper class protagonists; strong, unusual individuals belonging to an older generation; scientific topics; mystery and a touch of romantic love. Sixteen-year-old Vicky is given the opportunity to join an excursion to Antarctica where a young man whom she is very fond of, is completing a research internship. But some other members on her ship are involved in high-level political intrigue and crime. Due to her connections, Vicky is suspected of knowing too much. Once again L´Engle succeeds in weaving a story of suspense around a wide cast of characters caught up in a challenging situation. At another level, this suspenseful, fictional story allows her to comment on the current real-life political wrangling over a vast undeveloped continent which can effect the world´s environment and safety. (14+) ✧

62
Lewis, J. Patrick (text)
Spirin, Gennady (illus.)
The frog princess
New York: Dial/Penguin, 1994. 32pp
ISBN 0-8037-11624-9
Fairy tales/Russia - Frog/Princess/Curse
These exquisite, finely detailed illustrations in rich dark pastel tones portray the opulence of the tsar's court and immeasurably enhance this Russian folk tale about Vasilisa the Wise. Commanded to marry whoever finds the arrows they shoot out, two of the tsar's sons bring home wealthy, but otherwise ordinary women. But the third son returns home with an ugly frog, whom he nonetheless must marry. When the tsar sets the three brides various tasks, the two ordinary women make fools of themselves while Vasilisa is able to work wonders overnight, much to the delight of the tsar. The prince, however, nearly loses her forever when he secretly burns her frog skin before the curse has been broken. Only his persistence and the help of animals whose lives he spared enable him to return with his bride from the Kingdom beyond Blue Kingdoms. (5+) ✧

63
McGuire, Richard (text/illus.)
Night becomes day
New York: Viking/Penguin Group, 1994. [36pp]
ISBN 0-6700-85547-2
Time - Transition
This picture book employs a very unusual technique to stimulate the reader´s mental and visual imagination. The theme of time is presented in a chain of events which ends where it began. Each of McGuires double-page spreads continues the sequence of free-association, beginning with "night becomes day" and ending with "good becomes night." In between the reader takes an abstract journey through time and space. The illustrations are nearly one-dimensional lithographs done in primary colors and their main combinations. Hence the seemingly simple composition and clearly designed shapes aptly correspond to the seemingly simple text. The steady pace of time which flows invisibly page after page gives the book a complexity and intensity which seems to contradict the visual simplicity and ultimately achieves its purpose as a read-aloud sleep-inducing bedtime story. (4-7) ○

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64

Paterson, Katherine

Flip-flop girl

New York: Dutton/Lodestar Books, 1994. 120pp

ISBN 0-525-67480-2

Death - Grief - Family problems - Teacher - Friendship

Her father's death brings drastic changes in nine-year-old Vinnie's family: moving in with Grandmother in a new town, mother going to work, a new school. Her five-year-old brother Mason stops speaking after their father´s burial, and Vinnie cannot express her feelings of jealousy, anger and sadness because no one takes time to listen to her. At school she begins a tenuous friendship with another outsider girl in the class, and idolizes her teacher who reminds her of her father. But Vinnie's repressed emotions are vented in a spontaneous act of vandalism, setting in motion a chain of events which ultimately allows Vinnie and Mason to deal with their pain and self-imposed feelings of guilt and frustration. Paterson describes the events entirely from Vinnie´s own perspective, sensitively portraying the emotional and mental ambiguity (flip-flop changes) in children going through painful adjustments without overdramatization or sentimentality. (12+)

☺ Special Mention

65

Rites of passage. Stories about growing up by black writers from around the world.

Tonya Bolden (ed).

Foreword by Charles Johnson:

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1994. 208pp

ISBN 1-56282-688-3

Blacks - Racial discrimination - Self-discovery

The syntax, vocabulary and content of these seventeen stories is uniquely rooted in the so-called black experience without making them any less universal, inspiring and entertaining for readers of all ethnic and racial backgrounds. The manifold effects of belonging to a minority which collectively has been economically and socially disadvantaged for so long are sometimes blantant, sometimes quite subtle elements in these poignant and finely tuned tales about crucial moments in the process of coming of age, of learning to see the real world from a new perspective. This international anthology includes authors who grew up and still write today about contemporary life in North America, Latin America, Africa, England, or Australia. (12+) ✧

66

Robinet, Harriette Gillem

Mississippi chariot

New York: Atheneum, 1994. 117pp

(A Jean Karl Book)

ISBN 0-689-31960-6

USA/Racism - Friendship - Father/Prison

In this story about one hard-working black sharecropper family suddenly caught up in the wheels of injustice, racism in rural Mississippi in the 1930s is depicted realistically but without bitterness. The protagonist, twelve-year-old Shortning, is quite capable of recognizing and verbalizing his disadvantaged situation but seeks anyway to get his father released from the chain gang. By chance he saves the life of a white boy, Hawk, who begins to recognize his own prejudices and misconceptions of blacks. Though they are each still bound by strict social conventions, Hawk helps Shortening succeed in his plan. The solid plot and natural, honest dialogues create an authentic, gripping story of resilience and solidarity in the face of adversity. (10+) ✧

German Language

Austria

67
Egli, Werner J.
Nur einer kehrt zurück
(Only one will return)
Wien: Ueberreuter, 1994. 192pp
ISBN 3-80000-2407-1
Eskimo - Polar Bear/Hunt - Death
Three Eskimos set off on a polar bear hunt. The American girl, Angie, a visitor in the village, involuntarily joins up with them. The hunt goes badly and two of the men die in the drift ice, the third one can be rescued but is seriously injured. While the young white girl successfully battles against death with all her remaining strength, the Eskimo men give themselves up to fate with a certain resignation. The dramatic events of this novel are thrilling up to the last page. The reader gets a glimpse into the ethnological aspects of Eskimo life and learns the differences between white and Eskimo culture in terms of their attitudes to life and death for man and animal. (14+) ✧

68
Esterl, Arnica (text)
Zawadzki, Marek (illus.)
Okino und die Wale (Okino and the Whales)
Wien: Österreichischer Bundesverlag, 1994. [28pp]
ISBN 3-215-11197-7
Modern fairy tale - Rites of initiation - Whale
Sometimes Okino goes to the seashore to watch the wales. One day she tells her little son Takomi the ancient legend of a girl who once lived in the royal palace of the whales and was rescued by her mother and returned to earth. This interesting matriarchal variation of the tale of initiation has been illustrated with pictures of nighttime and water in a wide palette of blue tones which flow and circle around the text. The vast underwater world, the mysterious of the deep sea are opened up to the reader, vacillating between the world of nature and fairy tale. (6+) ☼
1994 Troisdorf Picture Book Prize of the Children's Jury

69
Jung, Reinhard
Das geheime Wissen der Pinguine.
(The secret knowledge of the penguins)
Wien: Jungbrunnen, 1993-1994. (2 vols.) 115pp, 117pp
ISBN 3-7026-5664-2; ISBN 3-7026-5670-7
Factual knowledge - Question-and-answer
The secret knowledge of the penguins consists of the answers to so-called "dumb" questions children like to ask. Hence inquisitive children are encouraged here by penguins to ask as many dumb questions as possible without the usual scruples imposed by adults. And the children get their answers - first in a radio show, and now in a two-volume work on various topics. The editors, working through the penguins, ensure that inspite of all the sensible and nonsensical wordplay the significance of the questions is clear and the desired answers given - in one form or another, whether fable, fairy tale or factual report. To what extent the stories are appropriate, that is something the reader must reflect upon him or herself. And that may be done with the greatest of pleasure. (5+) ☼

☺ *Special Mention*

70
Kusterer, Karin (text)
Edita Dugalic (text)
Heimat ist nicht nur ein Land. Eine bosnische Flüchtlingsfamilie erzählt (Home is not only a land. The story of a Bosnian refugee family)

With maps and tables
Wien: Dachs, 1994. 127pp
ISBN 3-85191-007-9
Bosnia/War - Refugee/Germany
The Bosnian Edita Dugalic (now 17 years old) lives with her family in Germany. In this book she relates her experiences of war in the former Yugoslavia, her childhood in her hometown of Zvornik on the Drina River - which is not lost to her - and her escape, the confusion. Her contacts to her friends in Bosnia with whom she went to school - whether Serb or Muslim children - are not broken off. This book deserves particular attention not only because of its current relevance - about which the media is full of necessarily one-sided and short journalistic reports. Here is a report of the personal experiences of younger and older people, completely lacking in sensationalism. They try to understand and survive their involuntary entanglement in the catastrophe of war. There is no mention of the gruesome acts which happened and are still happening, only of the wish of the civil population to live in peace in their homeland. The editor and co-author has included notes of history-making dates and geographical names. (12+) ✧ ○

71
Recheis, Käthe (text)
Holländer, Karen (illus.)
Wolfsaga (The wolf saga)
Wien: Herder, 1994. 507pp
ISBN 3-210-25075-8
Wolf - Dictatorship - Utopia
The great black wolf Schogar Kan, stronger than all the other wolf leaders, wants to create heaven on earth for his pack. He wants there to be only one great pack of wolves whose lives and survival is to be ensured with force against the rest of nature and other animals. He tolerates no opposition. Fighting and war crop up in Arcadia. Nonetheless or precisely because of it, the dictatorship must fall. His negative utopia of life, based on despotism, stands in contrast to the traditional, nature-given rules and to Waka, the eternal laws of creation. Schogar Kan is not conquered by counterforce, but rather loses his power through the gentle art of persuasion of a weaker one. In this narrative the author portrays the laws which nature herself has created. The animals decide for or against anti-nature and violence in the form of the great wolf and bear the consequences of their decision. Kathe Recheis impressively presents a mighty question here. With her protagonists of her saga of the natural world she dreams of an ideal, and above all of an achievable ideal world. (10+) ✧

72
Riha, Susanne (text/illus.)
Wir leben gern bei euch zuhaus
(We would like to live at your house)
Wien: Betz, 1994. [28pp]
ISBN 3-219-10589-0
House pet/Care
A house pet doesn't need to be a problem for parents and children. If the proper minimal prerequisites and attitutdes are present and proper care is given - as demonstrated here for twelve of the most common and beloved European house pets in text and pictures - both children and adults can have pleasure in a lively and healthy pet without pangs of conscience. This is set out in an informative and detailed manner in this picture book which is suitable even for smaller children. (5+) ○

✧ books whose content is found contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples

○ books with easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics

German Language

Germany

73
Abdel-Quadir, Ghazi (text)
Buresch, Bettina (illus.)
Das Blechkamel (The tin camel)
München: Klopp, 1994. 110pp
ISBN 3-7817-0109-3
Arabia/Tribal culture - Poverty - Technology - Community - City life

Samira is one of the Arab children who live in the tin-roofed hovels on the edge of a large city, near the garbage dumps. Hence the stories her grandmother tells about life years ago seems like a fairy tale. Their tribe had been affluent, there were camels, goats and chickens for them all. And although the children didn't go to school, when they grew up they knew how to get along in life. This was the way it was until the civil engineers watered the wasteland around the village, spreading artificial fertilizer and claiming ever greater portions of the harvest for themselves. Tribal disputes broke out among the neighbors, and the survivors were finally forced to move to the cities. That was how their impoverishment began. For all their greed, the members of the tribe had not listened to the warnings of the wise elders, but instead destroyed nature and hence their own life by the misguided use of technology. With tangible sadness, but without bitterness, the author tells a realistic story as a piece of fiction. The text also represents the possibility for acquainting children with socio-cultural aspects of life without writing a "problem book." (8+) ✧ ○

74
Andresen, Ute (text)
Herfurth, Egbert (illus.)
Alles hat einen Namen. Ein Wort-Schatz-Buch
(Everything has a name. A treasury of words)
Ravensburg: Ravensburger Buchverlag, 1994. 77pp
ISBN 3-473-33463-4
Dictionary/Multilingual

This treasure chest-like book of words combines pictures, poetry and words (in three languages) in a masterly manner. The chapters begin with the smallest place (a box) and end with the universe, showing in each case what is contained therein: box, knapsack, suitcase, closet, room and finally infinite cosmic space. A short verse characterizes each new dimension, pictures show the items, words describe the pictures (in German, English, and French). The result is a play-like, but very informative dictionary even suited for very small children, who are able to explore their immediate and not-so-immediate surroundings and find out the names and labels of things. (4+) ○

75
Belli, Gioconda (text)
Erlbruch, Wolf (illus.)
Die Werkstatt der Schmetterlinge (The Workshop for Butterflies)
Transl. from Spanish by Anneliese Schwarzer.
Wuppertal: Hammer, 1994. 40pp
ISBN 3-87294-607-2
Creation - Butterfly - Imagination

For the "maker of all things" there exists from the creative point of view certain limitations: the animal and plant kingdom must remain strictly separate from one another. There is no place for a "tree that sings like a bird...or.. a bird that lays apples instead of eggs...". And yet, young people in particular have their dreams. Rodolfo wants to invent a creature which "is like a bird and like a flower at once." In memory of his grandfather, the inventor of the rainbow, he composes the wings of this creature from grains of pollen and then gives it legs and a body with a long tongue so that it can feed itself from this pollen. He calls it Butterfly and invents butterflies for all regions of the world. Even the Wise Old One, a mother figure like those in the creation myths of primitive peoples, impressively appearing in a huge scarlet gown, is enchanted by this unexpected beauty. The young inventor is given permission to summon together a jury of all creators to decide about the necessity of a separate workshop for the butterflies. The story is fully of fantasy and intelligence, the text (which is not available in this form in Spanish) holds an exotic type of brilliance; and Erlbruch's pictures are as fascinating as ever. Seriousness and caricatural humor intersect with one another also at the formal artistic level. Inspite of the naturalistic portrayal of figures and objects on the page, the artist sensitively and accurately conveys the atmosphere of the both tedious and pleasurably creative task of designing. The large-sized, prize-winning book deserves all the attention it will receive. (6+) ✧

76
Boie, Kirsten
Erwachsene reden. Marco hat etwas getan
(Adults talk. Marco has taken action)
Hamburg: Oetinger, 1994. 100pp
ISBN 3-7891-3108-3
Right-wing radicalism - Society/Violence - Murder - Germany/Foreign residents
Friends and classmates, teachers, school principal, neighbors, social workers, pastor and mayor talk here about the "Marco case". Their comments range from "no comment" to wordy statements, more or less precise, more or less burdened with self-reflection and the question of adult guilt in regard to Marco's behavior. Marco killed two people, Turkish children. Those witnesses questioned name the places of other recent murders, such as Mölln and Solingen. Even Marco had spoken aloud about the possibility of a similar deed, but no one paid attention to him - as had been the case throughout his childhood. To achieve just that, namely to achieve recognition, he took action. There was also a group of youth in this small, unpossessing place, who wanted to distance themselves from the deeds of Mölln and Sollingen with a chain of lights. But when the asylum seekers arrive, problems between the local residents and the foreigners arise. Using a very adept narrative technique the author brings in all the usual arguments and pseudo-arguments about the issue of emnity toward foreigners. Based on an isolated incident, the social setting for the potential origins of misanthropic and xenophobic acts become better understandable. (12+) ✧

77
Brandis, Sylvia (text)
Ensikat, Klaus (illus.)
Momme in Schweden. Die Dachsreise
(Momme in Sweden. The badger's journey)
Hamburg: Rowohlt, 1994. 88pp
ISBN 3-499-20741-9
Sweden - Farm - Horse - Nature - Friendship
Momme travels with his mother to visit Gunnar on a remote farm in Sweden. There he finds Bellmann, the old horse with a hundred faces, just one cow in the barn and mysteriously feuding neighbors, with whom however a reconciliation is possible. An elk calf is separated from its mother and Momme decides he will never to shoot elk, but instead become a farmer. A badger gets caught in a trap and is rescued from a sure death. This sympathetic story presents a not quite ideal world - but also not a problem world - and its inhabitants. Much is only alluded to, much remains part of an undefined background, but the protagonists are clearly drawn. The imaginative fantasy of children and the real world of adults are united in a pleasant relationship which all of

them can accept. The publisher of this original paperback is to be congratulated for including the illustrations by Klaus Ensikat, which effortlessly include these widely differing worlds in his drawings. (5+) ○

78

Feth, Monika (text)
Boratyński, Antoni (illus.)
Der Schilderputzer (The sign cleaner)
Düsseldorf: Patmos, 1995. [32pp]
ISBN 3-491-37310-7
Work - Happiness - Education - Fame

Working in streets named Bach, Beethoven, Brecht or Kästner has unanticipated consequences for a street cleaner. He suddenly realizes that he knows nothing about the people whose names he is cleaning daily. At first he goes to concerts to hear their music, then to the public library to read their books. Soon he is singing and reciting while he works. An audience gathers around him and he is given a show on television. To make a long story short: the street sign cleaner turns down a post at the university and continues to his own work, holding lectures for his own and his listeners' pleasure. Antony Boratyński gives his protagonists realistic expressions but rather dream-like appearance, their faces are stereotypic but also lively. Two dimensional colors and distorted proportion, often out of perspective, correspond in a formal way to the substance of this sympathetic, but unfortunately hardly imaginable story about a happy person. (7+) ○

79

Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm (text)
Ensikat, Klaus (illus.)
Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten (The Bremen city musicians)
Berlin: Altberliner Verlag, 1994. 24pp
ISBN 3-357-00766-5
Ingratitude - Man/Animal - Self-help - House/Occupation

One can happily report that Klaus Ensikat is no longer an insider's tip in the western states of Germany, having being recently awarded the "Lux" for lifetime achievement by Germany's leading weekly newspaper "Die Zeit." This fairy tale edition contains all the qualities which he is known for: technical meticulousness along with a wealth of imagination, oscillaton between classical genre and landscape art and a simultaneous unbroken tendency toward biting caricatural diversity for the protagonists. The dynamicism of the scenes is captured in the borders of each spread, which for the most part contains both text and illustration. Italic font and scattered motifs of musical instruments form a harmonious unity, as is also true of the brown-green tones. This fairy tale picture book has no expiration date. (6+) ○

80

Heller, Eva (text/illus.)
Die wahre Geschichte von allen Farben
(The true story of all colors)
Oldenburg: Lappan, 1994. [52pp]
ISBN 3-89082-129-4
Colors

"In the beginning was white." This is the beginning of the "true story of all colors." White lets all the other colors glow and shine, and each individual color - red, blue, yellow - want to capture its place on white. In doing so, they come together and even mix with one another. To their great dismay they must accept that new members of the family thus arrive: orange, violet, brown and black. Each color has its own idiocyncracies: red is loud, blue is gentle, violet is silent. Finally white, the sum of all colors, establishes order amidst all the fights over rank order and position. It invents the chromatic circle. Each is appointed an acceptable place between its neighboring relations. By giving the colours their own willfulness and character, the author creates a dynamic and structured tale for children who like to draw. (4+) ○

81

Hetmann, Frederik

Reise bis zum Ende der Welt. Aus dem Leben des Robert Louis Stevenson (Journey to the end of the world. The life of Robert Louis Stevenson)

Ravensburg: Ravensburger Buchverlag, 1994. 281pp

ISBN 3-473-35138-5

Stevenson, Robert Louis/Biography

Ever since childhood Robert Louis Stevenson suffered from tuberculosis. In this fictive biography he confesses his remedy against the disease to his stepson, the narrator: try to imagine a journey that one wants to make at all costs. In fact Stevenson did succeed in drawing out the deadly course of his illness until his 44th year through many changes of climate and location. In this biography Hetmann combines fictitious passages with original texts by Stevenson, including those from the lesser known homo politicus. The reader experiences the birth of the novel "Treasure Island" as a joint idea of Stevenson and his stepson. Both enjoyed combining their fantasies of adventure and observations of unusual contemporaries into a story which the adult writes while the youth spurs it onwards when it begins to slacken. Precise biographical research and detailed portrayals of Stevenson's places of residence endow the book with a convincing atmosphere. (10+) ✧

82

Kordon, Klaus

Die Zeit ist kaputt. Die Lebensgeschichte des Erich Kästner (Time out of order. The life story of Erich Kästner)

Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1994. 224pp

ISBN 3-407-80729-5

Kästner, Erich/Biography

Thirty-seven years after the appearance of Kästner's famous autobiography "When I was a little boy" (German ed. 1957) Klaus Kordon puts the life of this writer into its cultural-historical context. He reflects on Kästner's writings using the current knowledge of personality psychology and doesn't stop short of chipping away a little at the Kästner monument. The political events of the first part of this century, which by now are thoroughly documented, are referred to in statements by those alive then and in photographs of Kästner's encounters with them. In a generally more rational tone than is usually expected of Kästner admirerers, Kordon makes a vehement case for a rediscovery of his socially critical works, which especially in Germany have been seriously neglected in favor of his children's books. Kästner is still highly regarded as an author of political texts in other countries. (14+) ✧

83

Pressler, Mirjam

Wenn das Glück kommt, muß man ihm einen Stuhl hinstellen

(When happiness arrives, one should offer it a chair)

Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1994. 178pp

ISBN 3-407-79648-X

Children's home/Everyday life - Diary - Feelings

Halinka comes from Poland. Her aunt Lou would be glad to adopt her, but isn't allowed to as long as she is unmarried. Halinka lives with her thoughts and dreams more outside than inside the children's home where it finds everything and everyone antagonistic. In her loneliness, she takes emotional comfort from writing in her secret book of thoughts (but no feelings, in case a stranger were to find it), where important sentences such as that of the title of this book. There are many little tricks used for survival in the everyday life of the children's home, including the art of not falling for the mean tricks of the other girls. But still there are positive moments, even with some adults, such as when a teacher silently ignores Halinka's misdeeds. Mirjam Pressler succeeds in letting the reader experience the child narrator's desperation, anger and maliciousness, her joy and happiness. (8+) ✩

84
Schami, Rafik (text)
Erlbruch, Wolf (illus.)
Das ist kein Papagei!
München: Hanser, 1994. 32pp
ISBN 3-446-17748-5
Parrot - Family fight - Feminism

Let's get it right from the start: The parrot that Lina's parents thought was a he-bird is a she-bird. And she-birds never repeat what they are told to say. They fall asleep while you are talking. One could even consider them dumb or untalented. But not Lina. She got the picture right from the very beginning, but for all their fighting, her parents didn't hear her for a long time. After being unmasked and giving proof of her diligence - she claims to speak thirteen language fluently and understand twenty others - the she-bird is allowed to stay in the family. The text and illustrations of this lovely, caricatural story of a secret matriarchy fit together in ideal harmony. The illustrator fulfills all the subversive visual desires of the beholder. (5+) ✩

85
Schins, Marie-Thérèse
Wagner, Stefan
Budweg, Peter
Vergitterte Jugend. Innenansichten aus dem Jugendknast (Youth behind bars. Inside a juvenile detention center)
Recklinghausen: Bitter, 1994.173pp
ISBN 3-7903-0515-4
Youth/Criminal behavior - Prison/Youth - Writing

The author, translator, teacher and journalist Marie-Thérèse Schins and two students got involved with the inmates of a juvenile detention center in the hopes of furthering reading and writing skills. With this program she hoped to give even the functional illiterates there a sphere in which young criminals would be able to name and deal with their own difficulties. Some of those interviewed were even prepared to participate in the newly founded reading club in the center. Some, such as the co-author Wagner, a young gypsy, recognized writing as an opportunity to develop a feeling of inner freedom even in a non-free situation. In general the work with the inmates took place on a friendly level. The author contributes her own texts in this volume; the inmates began to interest themselves for their own life only after they had begun to write about their feelings and thoughts. (12+) ✧

86
Schubiger, Jörg (text)
Berner, Rotraut Susanne (illus.)
Als die Welt noch jung war (When the world was still young)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1995. 173pp
ISBN 3-407-79653-6
Paradox - Humor

Absurd, mostly very short stories are contained in this extraordinary volume. Extraordinary both for their often sly, and even sassy content, and equally so for their eccentric illustrations which are scattered throughout the book either on full-sized pages in strong, but not glaring colors, or inserted as vignettes at the beginning of the chapter, or in black-white-and-ochre tones as a preface to some texts. The overall design (paper quality, typeface, binding, and dustjacket) is pleasing in its harmony. The 43 stories invite the reader to this or that discovery: beginning with Adam and Eva's paradise, ending with alternative life-styles of outsiders such as the "little giant" or the "slow one," and in between in chapters dedicated to things, animals, names, puzzles and magic. (8+) ○

☺ *Special Mention*

87

Tschinag, Galsan
Der blaue Himmel (The blue heavens)
With glossary
Frankfurt a. M.: Suhrkamp, 1994. 177pp
ISBN 3-51840596-9
Tuva Autonomous Region - Nomads/Mongolia - Everyday life/Mongolia - Dog - Family life

A Tuvinian child - the Tuvinians are a Mongolian tribe - learns how to behave without actually being raised. At least that is how it used to be. The word "education" is not part of the Tuvinian language. Children learn the rules of behaviour for specific situations as part of a group; everything else is learned by listening, observing, imitating and helping. The most important beings in the life and surroundings of the young narrator are his "grandmother," an unknown older woman who came once upon a time into the tent village, Ail, and stayed on because the child "chose" her and they no longer wanted to part, and the dog Arsylang, leader of the pack and their faithful companion, "my brother-instead-of-a-brother" as the author calls him. The climax and end of this narrator's childhood is a long hard winter which the little family barely manages to survive along with a very few of their herd. For the dog Arsylang the new period, with its technical possibilities, brings a fateful danger when he eats the poison that the father sets out for the marauding predators. The boy threatens to succumb to his despair over the dog's death and in a dramatic protest he turns to the highest Tuvanian healer, the Gük Deeri, the "blue heavens", who gives the book is double-meaninged title. The enormous force of the text lies in its long "inner wind," which challenges the imagination and conveys the rhythm of tension and restfulness in the life of the Ail. The author of this autobiographical memoir, Galsan Tschinag, was born into a Tuvinian family of nomadic animal-herders in the Mongolian People's Repubulic in 1944. He studied German in East Germany between 1962 and 1968, and wrote this novel in German. In 1992 he was awarded the Adalbert von Chamisso Prize in Munich.(10+) ✧ ○

88

Tuckermann, Anja
Muscha (Proper name)
München: Klopp, 1994. 218pp
ISBN 3-7817-2080-2
Germany/History 20th century - Sinti (Gypsy) - Racial persecution

When he entered school in 1938 Josef, called Muscha, was confronted with the Nazi contempt for human life and racial hysteria. Betrayed by his physical appearance, he is beaten up, teased, and finally taken away and sterilized by doctors. His parents are able to save him just before deportation and hide him for many long months in a lonely garden house. Only at the end of the war does he learn that he was a child of gypsies and had been taken in by a foster family. Muscha's story is told from the perspective of another school boy and the reader, as Muscha himself, is kept in the dark about the real grounds for his suffering until the end of the novel. Only in an epilogue does it become clear that the story of Muscha is absolutely authentic. (B.S.) (10+) ✧

German Language

89
Waluszek, Christian (text)
Michl, Reinhard (illus.)
Die Reise zu den Brumm-Bell-Bergen (The journey to the Growl-Bark Mountains)
München: Ellermann, 1994. 131pp
ISBN 3-7707-3013-5
Freedom - Dancing bear - Dop - Cockaigne

Mischa the bear and Zapek the dog want to find the animals' Cockaigne, the land of milk and honey. They are hindered only by the chains which bind them to Happy Juran's caravan wagon. Though Zadek feels chained up, Mischa has forgotten what freedom is. Only as a bear cub could he run over meadows and rob beehives of honey, before Juran made him into a dancing bear. The two runaways make their dreams come true; now and then one sees them roaming happily through the woods. The text is pleasing on the one hand for its unsentimental portrayal of the sad lot of captive animals and still it offers the most splendid situational comedies which arise from man and animal trying to live together but having only a limited amount of mutual tolerance. Full-sized black-and-white pictures by Reinhard Michl contribute to this reading pleasure. (8+) ☼

Switzerland (German)

90
Ebert-Schifferer, Sybille (ed.)
Thorbecke, Jan Peter et.al. (text)
Fünf stumme Zeugen betrachten ein Tonschwein: 7192 Jahre Begegnung im Museum.
(Five silent witnesses study a clay pig: 7192 years of encouters in the museum)
Bern: Benteli, 1993. 79pp
ISBN 3-7165-0873
Art museum

This exceptional information book doesn't intend to be a museum guide but rather a stimulus for the reader to discover art. To this end the book is designed using a series of graphic techniques such as pieces of art in various sizes or excerpts and in unexpected places on the page. In the descriptive texts, in the comparisons between different epochs using individual works as examples, as well as in the fold-out chronological tables an instructive survey is created without any recognizable pedagogical impetus. At the same time various possibilities and techniques of artistic book design are shown in the layout of the catalog itself. In all these aspects the curiosity and pleasure in discovery in both children and adults are offered. The guide is an exemplary escort. It includes illustrations of pieces held in the Hessian State Museum in Darmstadt. (8+)

91
Hauff, Wilhelm (text)
Čapek, Jindra (illus.)
Die Geschichte von Kalif Storch (The story of Caliph Stork)
Zürich: bohem press, 1994. [36pp]
ISBN 3-85581-271-3
Metamorphosis - Stork - Love - Modern fairy tale

Fairy tales involving metamorphosis are traditionally loved by children. In the tale of Caliph of Bagdad and his Great Vizir present themselves her in a new form. The illustrator gives them the unistakeable features of storks and men; he does the same for the magicians who give the impetus for the whole plot and are punished for their evilness in the end. Full-page illustrations reflect the splendor of the Orient and the expanse of its landscape. The generous type-setting is pleasing to the eye, delicate initial vignettes grace the beginning of each chapter. The large-sized book represents, without being designed at an unusual expense. Not only in content but also in its imagery, an imaginable Oriental world which is by tradition dedicated to leisure and pleasure. The splendor of the pictures upholds the childlike joy of reading and telling stories. The traditional figurativeness of the Orient appears at times caricatural, surpassing the textual content of the story. In this way the frames obtain their own authenticity, which at once interprets and depicts the Hauff tale.(6+) ✧

☺ *Special Mention*

92
Johansen, Hanna (text/illus.)
Ein Maulwurf kommt immer allein (A mole is always á loner)
Zürich: Nagel & Kimche, 1994. 118pp
ISBN 3-312-00778-x
Mole - Individualism - Family

The mole is a typical loner and only feels really happy when he is left alone. Hanna Johansen has made use of this fact to create a poetic case for the individualists of this world, wherever they may be hiding. Mother Mole loves her little children, her "closest to her heart little silk worms" as much as any other concerned mother. The little moles get along together, fight and battle with one another, become independent. They dig their own tunnels. The little girl mole, much to her own surprise, even tolerates a guest in her wing of the tunnel once. And soon she builds a nest of her own and has her own little "closes to her heart silk worms" to take care of, at least for a while. But the story in this book is not quite so thin. There are the most marvelous odors in the mole tunnels, they are crawling with little bugs and insects, "friends" of the moles. That is how the life of a mole is - friends are those you can eat, enemies are those who can eat you. The art of storytelling needs few words, just the right ones. Hanna Johansen uses this art to create new worlds which provide adults and children unexpected, funny and ironical insights into their own world.(6+) ○

93
Schindler, Regine (text)
Jucker, Sita (illus.)
Mia, was ist ein Trip? (Mia, What is a trip?)
Zürich: bohem press, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 3-85581-261-6
Drug abuse - Friendship - Family

Sometimes Matthias meets Mia and Puek, the dog, on his way home from school. Mia is a junkie and one day she cannot conceal it from Matthias any longer. His parents forbid him to see her any longer. Whe he meets her, her condition is already incurable. The boy takes on a big project: someday he will work with drug addicts. Although it is quite clearly a problem-centered (picture) book, conceived in cooperation with the Swiss Central Agency for Addiction Prevention, the text and illustrations convey an atmosphere of security in Matthias's home as well as the vulnerability of a homeless drug addict. This book provides an opportunity for discussion and lets even younger children know how dangerous drugs are, but also that in certain cases addicts can be cured. (8+) ○

94
Tolstoi, Leo (text)
Abesinova, Elena (illus.)
Wieviel Erde braucht der Mensch?
German text: Giese, Maja.
Zürich: Speer, 1994. [36pp]
ISBN 3-85916163-6
Farmer - Greed - Death

Pachom, the farmer, tries to think of way to purchase more land. He learns about a region where one can acquire as much land one is able to mark off by walking from sun-up to sundown. He decides to take up this good bargain but overtaxes himself with his march around his future land and dies. The German version of this Russian has been shortened and adapted for children. The illustrations contain the traditional Russian folkart motifs in richly detailed and yet grandly playful, humorous and brightly colored variations. Interspersed with ironic jabs at the religious practices and everyday life in grand old Russia, there is a new picture world of men, women, angels and animals on each page. Countryside and cities are boxed inside of one another, make-believe maps with cyrillic writing draw attention to themselves. The illustrator Elena Abesinova lives and works today in Kiev. (6+) ✿

see also Nr. 25 and 26 (Romania)

Belgium (French)

☺ Special Mention

95

Elzbieta (text/illus.)

Clown (Clown)

Paris: Pastel/L'Ecole des Loisirs, 1994.
[28pp]
ISBN 2 211 018 94

Clown - Toy - Dream - Personal Property

In his dreams a young boy sees a clown dressed in white against an alternately dark yellow and an orange background. On the right side pages the text describes all the things he owns, on the reverse side it tells what he has lost. He had a pink rose ... it was eaten up by a sheep. He had a purple pair of pants ... the dog ran away with it. He had a nice red nose ... a blackbird snatched it off. But when the clown wakes up the next morning he finds all his treasures gathered around him. Vivacious and expressive drawings betray the illustrator's gentle humor. She has succeeded in creating an enchanting book for the very young reader. (2+) ✧

96

Hellings, Colette (text)
Maes, Dominique (illus.)

L'oeuvre d'âne (The donkey's opus)

(n.p.): Pastel/L'Ecole des loisirs, 1994.
[28pp]
ISBN 2-211-019-36-6

Art appreciation - Humor - Donkey - Pegasus - Genius - Painting - Self-discovery

This humorous picture book deals with a confused young donkey in his painting studio, which is empty except for three cans of paint. Yet quite unexpectedly he is able to fulfill his painter's ambitions. In the end our donkey perceives himself to be a budding genius, covering not only the canvas but also himself with colorful splats of paint. On wings of joy the pointer flys through the open window, upwards toward the sun. In a simple manner the author and the illustrator succeed in presenting the creative process with all its ups and down. The reader shares in the artist's joy and learns along the way quite coincidentally something about the theory of colors. (5+) ✿

Canada (French)

97

Lavigne, Guy (text)

Mourir sur fond blanc (Dying on a white background)

Montréal: La courte échelle, 1994. 150pp
(Roman + 30)
ISBN 2-89021-209-2

Detective story - Murder - Art - Video film

Those looking for easy-to-read and lively entertainment can unhesitatingly pick up this smoothly written detective story. The author offers yet another episode in the successful career of the private eye Joseph E. This time there are two mysterious murders, a suspicious policeman, an attractive woman painter, and a missing video cassette. Was it blackmail? Except for several funny made-up words, the text is easy to follow. (12+) ✪

98
Lienhardt, Jean-Michel (text)
Chat de gouttière (Roaming cat)
Montréal: Paulines, 1993. 141pp
(Jeunesse-pop 90)
ISBN 2-89420-204-0
Single-parent family - Father/Son - First love - Runaway
Every since his mother died, Nicholas has lived alone with his father, who often comes home drunk. Nicholas is frequently left to fend for himself and he is not always well-behaved. He is taken in by his petty-minded aunt Rita, but soon runs away and finds shelter in the vacation home of the parents of his girlfriend, Aurélie. Finally his greatest wish can be fulfilled: he is allowed to live with his father again. The main theme of this book is the father-son relationship. The reader can readily sympathize with Nicholas's deeds and misdeeds. Numerous dialogues enliven the text, which is both entertaining and suspenseful.(11+)

99
Plante, Raymond (text)
L'étoile a pleuré rouge (The star cried red tears)
Montréal: Boréal, 1994. 160pp
(Boréal Inter 28)
ISBN 2-89052-613-5
Youth/Gang - Violence/Gang - Murder - Love - Friendship - Prostitution
Violence on the streets, violence for violence's sake among youth people is the theme running through this story. The author depicts 55 hours in the life of Guts, Yannick, Man, Big, their girlfriend Lori and the real hero of the story, Esther. The story begins with the preparations for a nighttime attack in a city park, to which Esther is by chance a witness, and ends with the murder of a member of the group. Reading like a slow-motion thriller, this novel is in reality a refined, masterful literary description of a state of being - without delving into the psychological background: for these youth there is no way out. The author succeeds with his picturesque sentences in creating an atmosphere of intensity. (13+) ✧

☺ *Special Mention*

100
Simard, Rémy (text)
Pratt, Pierre (illus.)
Mon chien est un éléphant (My dog is an elephant)
Willowdale: Annick Press, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 1-55037-979-8 (French ed.)
ISBN 1-55037-977-1 (English ed.)
Boy - Elephant - Friendship - Disguise Hide-and-Seek - Family Conflict
Hector takes in an elephant which has escaped from the zoo and hides it in his room. To protect his mother from any further surprise encounters with the giant animal - she faints each time - Hector tries out different disguises for his charge. But all his efforts prove to be unsuitable. In this series of slapstick style surprises which climax in the mother's fainting spell the reader can even image hearing the thump of her fall. Such grotesque inventiveness is great fun! (5+)
1994 Canadian Governor General's Award for Illustration ✪

France

101
Begag, Azouz (text)
Quand on est mort, c'est pour toute la vie (When you're dead, its for the rest of your life)

Paris: Gallimard Jeunesse, 1994. 122pp
(Page blanche)
ISBN 2-07-058425-9
Lyons - Algeria - France/Immigrant - Homelessness - Social power - Social injustice - Identity crisis

The first-person narrator of this young adult novel, Amar, is a writer. He is a "beur," the French name for the second generation of Algerian immigrants. His younger brother, Murad, is shot by a taxi driver because he cannot pay the fare for the ride to the airport. Murad had dreamed of flying to America. The reader sympathizes with Amar's desperation, which leads him to perform irrational acts in attempt to provoke the Lyons police. He wonders whether Murad's death was not prosecuted because he was a "beur." To get some rest Amad travels again to Algeria, the land in which he was not born and has not seen for thirteen years. Finding everthing completely changed, he hastily leaves his family village. In an adventure-filled return trip by bus through the desert, he is a powerless witness to the undercurrent political fighting that is destroying the land. Police and spies are omnipresent. But nothing happens to him, the rich "beur." Amar observes the contradictions in this country, its inner conflicts. He would like to help, but feels that he doesn't fit in there. (14+) ✧
Prix Cercle d´Or Livres Hebdo 1994

102
Bloch, Muriel (text)
Tjoyas, Alexios (illus.)
La femme-jardin et autres contes extravagants
(The Garden Woman and Other Eccentric Tales)
Paris: Syros, 1994. 124pp
(Paroles de conteurs)
ISBN 2-841-46057-6
Story-telling - Fairy tales/Anthology - Love - Feminism

Eight volumes in this new series "Tales from Around the World" have already been published. The publisher's stated goal is to retain the vividness of the narrative ductus in the printed version. The texts are short and printed in large type using particularly praiseworthy typography. Pithy sentences or passages are emphasized in the size and boldness of the script. In this volume we are confronted with seven amazing tales which give evidence of the author's bizarre humor and the verve of her storytelling. (8+)

103
Bouton, Émilie (text)
Dedieu, Thierry (illus.)
Attention Mimolette! (Watch out, Mimolette!)
Paris: Albin Michel Jeunesse, 1994. [30pp]
ISBN 2-226-06053-7
Mouse - Household/Danger - Adventure

A little mouse still in green diapers escapes from the confines of its parents' home and embarks on a series of adventures in the human household. Hunting for delicacies it lands in all kinds of calamities. These are portrayed from imposing perspectives on generously painted, brightly colored acrylic pictures. The text, written in the style of children's rhymes, draws attention to the dangers to which Minolette has exposed herself. In this picture book the author and illustrator succeed in warning children of the dangers which are lurking in every household in an original, humorous manner. (4+) ○

104
Brisou-Pellen, Evelyne (text)
Besse, Christophe (illus.)
Le Vrai prince Thibault
(The true Prince Thibault)
Paris: Rageot, 1994. 89pp
(Cascade)
ISBN 2-7002-2124-9

King/Right of succession - Friendship - Mix-up
Who is the true son of the king? What might be the onset of a tragedy is presented here as an amusing fairy tale. Thibault is the son of the king; the same-aged Guillaume is the son of the king's servant, whose wife is also Thibault's wet-nurse. When she dies, no one else is able to tell the two infants apart. The two boys grow up together, become inseperable companions, and even call themselves Thillaume and Guibault. The king and all his court waver between the wish to finally get to the truth and the acceptance of an insolvable situation. Since every lead proves to be an illusion, there are many hilarious mix-ups and even malicious intrigues. But the heart and mind are stronger. The two successors share the royal crown. This entertaining and easy-to-read tale conceals a more serious core question - how to determine the genuine successor? In the appendix the author lists some historical examples.(10+) ✪
Prix Tam-Tam 1994 J´aime lire - Je bouquine, Salon du Livre de Jeunesse

105
Cohen-Scali, Sarah (text)
Mallart, Bruno (illus.)
Arthur Rimbaud, le voleur de feu
(Arthur Rimbaud, The Fire Thief)
Paris: Hachette Jeunesse, 1994. 286pp
(Livre de poche jeunesse 491)
ISBN 2-01-321023-X
Belgium - Rimbaud, Arthur (1854-1891)/Childhood/Biography - Entwicklungsroman
Those who are interested in this French poet will enjoy the biography of his childhood and youthful years. With much love and persistence Sarah Cohen-Scali delved into his first years in Charleville, a poor small town in the Ardennes near the border of France. This novel is based on the Rimbaud biography by Jean-Luc Steimetz, Rimbaud's correspondence, and above all on the inspiration the author received from his poetry. The result is an exceptionally lively portrayal of the psychological and literary development of the young Rimbaud in the midst of an impoverished, bigotted and strict mother and three siblings in a gloomy provincial dump. The brilliant model pupil turns into a rebellious, restless poet, possessed by his work and intentionally giving himself off as a good-for-nothing. With his teacher, George Izambard, with whom he shares a deep bond of friendship, Rimbaud is confronted with new Republican ideals. Attempting to flee the narrowness of his surroundings, Rimbaud's initially unsuccessful escapades finally lead him to his idolized Verlaine. Rimbaud dreams of a colorful bird of paradise he calls "Baou", which inspires him to compose his poems. Each of "Baou's" sudden "appearances" is cleverly used by the author as a symbol of Rimbaud's talent. A novel-like biography which undoubtedly brings us nearer to the "mystery" of Rimbaud. (13+)

106
Dedieu, Thierry (text/illus.)
Yakouba (Proper name)
Paris: Seuil Jeunesse, 1994. [32 pp]
ISBN 2-02-021478-4
Africa - Initiation - Lion hunt - Test of Courage - Peace Pedagogy - Non-violence - Self-discovery
Powerful, almost frightening black-and-white illustrations depict the story of Yakouba, a young African boy, who has the courage to resist the cruel tradition of his tribe. When the lion, whom he is to kill as the test of courage during his rate of initiation, begs him to be merciful, Yakouba grants his wish. He is thus faced with the social contempt of his people. As punishment he is appointed to a passive post as the guardian of the village herd.

Yakouba has proven his courage in a different manner, by making a decision on his own and he receives a different kind of reward. From that time onward, the herd is never again attacked by any lion. Yakouba's courage of self-responsibility and non-violence were of benefit to the entire village. (7+) ✧ ☼

107
Delval, Jacques (text)
Salut bahut! (So long, old school!)
Paris: Castor Poche Flammarion, 1994. 195pp
(Castor Poche Senior 445)
ISBN 2-08-162294-7
Trade school - Social inequality - Generation conflict - Theft - Friendship - Teacher - Solidarity - Lovesickness

Everyday life in the last year of a trade training school in a suburb of Paris forms the background of this story. The pupils are bored, have no goal, are easily seducible. The parents are unsympathetic. The unexperienced young teacher Bancourt, who actually had higher ambitions, stands helplessly in front of his first class. Yet he succeeds in getting the class on his side. He befriends Jed, who like him is searching for an identity. Jed becomes involved in a case of car theft, for which not he but his classmate Diellez is guilty. This easy-to-read novel ends with a glimpse of hope when Brancourt and Jed together attend to Diellez. The author, himself a teacher for many years, has a special talent for conveying the school atmosphere, poised between indifference and discipline, and the varying attitudes of the teachers. (13+) ✧ ☼

108
Féraud, Dominique-Jacqueline (text/illus.)
Le Fil d'Ariane ou Jouer le Jeu pour Vivre le Mythe (The Ariadne Thread or Playing the Game to Experience the Myth)
Paris: Ipomée / Albin Michel, 1944. [54pp] + Gameboard
ISBN 2-226-05472-3
Greece (Antiquity) - Mythology - Theseus - Labyrinth - Game of dice - Didactics

Encased in an unusual binding are the boardgame "Jeu de l'oie", a game of simpleton which purportedly traces back to the Greeks, and a book which presents the life of Theseus. The attractively designed book, whose verse text is printed on pale-grey paper and laid out in a way which lends itself to reading aloud, functions as well as the rules of the game. Each field of the game board corresponds to a section of the book and an event in the life of Theseus. The game is laid out in a labyrinth. This is an original idea of acquainting children in a playful way with an episode of Greek mythology. (12+)

☺ *Special Mention*

109
Gaussen, Dominique (text)
François 1er & les Châteaux de la Loire (Francis I & the Loire castles)
With illus.
Paris: Mango, 1994. 96pp
(Regard d'aujourd'hui)
ISBN 2-7404-0359-3
Francis I of France - Loire/Castles - Royal Court - France/Everyday life 1494-1547

The author and successful advertising expert, Dominique Gaussen, has taken Voltaire's motto that all types of things are good except the boring ones, and proven its truth. Thanks to his humorful inventiveness we are given a well-paced and diversified glimpse into the life of the French king, life at the royal court, and the origins of the Loire castles. Gaussen cleverly embeds it into the social and historical context of the Renaissance. This illustrated informative

book is designed as a stimulating piece of journalism and owes much to modern techniques of advertizing. Divided into numerous short, very different chapters, the eye-catching headlines, the combination of old documents, photomontage, and contemporary caricatures awakens the reader's curiosity. This very new style of disseminating knowledge matches the times best of all. (12+)
Prix Cercle d´Or Livres Hebdo 1994

110
Gutman, Claude (text)
Rue de Paris (A Street in Paris)
Paris: Gallimard Jeunesse, 1994. 187pp
(Page blanche)
ISBN 2-07-058265-5
Paris/World War II - Jews/Persecution - Homelessness - Palestine - Emigration - Search for identity
This is the last volume of a trilogy about the fate of Jews in France during the Second World War. David is filled with the desire for revenge when he learns the fate of his parents at the end of the war. He leaves Paris and the people who had given him a home. Searching for a new meaning to his life, he takes care of Jewish orphans, falls in love with Sarah, and follows her to Palestine on an adventure-filled crossing of Mediterranean by ship. But Palestine is still under British control. He experiences the hard and anonymous life in the refugee camps and kibbutz, the struggles against the occupying powers. In short, clipped sentences he tells of his berreavement, his anger, his sense of being lost, his inner vacuum. But he is drawn into the tumultous events around him. His love of literature, his feelings for the totally committed Zionisten Sara, the solidarity of the comrades are highlights in the struggle for survival. In a final identity crisis, he decides to return to France. Claude Gutman grew up in Israel; his descriptions of the arrival of Jewish refugees and the precarious daily life in Palestine are most impressive. (12+) ✧

111
La Fontaine, Jean de (text)
Fables (Fables)
With illus.
Paris: Albin Michel, 1994. 66pp
ISBN 2-226-07042-7
Fables - Animal/Fable
This year is the 300th anniversary of the writer Jean de la Fontaine (1621-1695). In commemoration, Albin Michel has issued this splendid large-sized volume of fables. Thirty well-known children's book illustrators and comic artists from France and also from other countries were commissioned to contribute illustrations. Whether traditional or idiosyncratic, their interpretations are extremely stimulating and awaken the well-known teachings of morality and cleverness to new life. The final two pages are particularly humorous. The artists have written and drawn their own biographical sketches. This volume will please both young and old; a must for every library collection. (7+)

112
Pennart, Geoffroy de (text/illus.)
Le loup est revenu! (The wolf has returned!)
Paris: Kaléidoscope, 1994. [34pp]
ISBN 2-87767-121-6
Rabbit - Wolf - Fear - Fairy tale/Spoof - Animal tale
The wolf has returned! Upon receiving this treatening piece of news, various well-known figures of classic fairy tales seek refuge in the rabbit's home. In a reversal of the usual course of events, the Seven Billy Goats, Little Red Riding Hood, and the Three Little Pigs, among others, arrive. The very last guest is the bad wolf himself. But all turns out harmoniously with a

common vegetarian feast. To top it all off, the wolf tells them scary wolf stories. It makes merry reading for young and old to follow these funny episodes of fairy tale spoofing. (4+) ☼
Prix Saint-Exupéry 1994 - Valeurs Jeunesse

113
Pernin, Muriel (text)
Wintz, Nicolas (illus.)
Famine: l'arme des tyrans (Famine: The weapon of tyrants)
Paris: Syros, 1994. 134 pp.
(J'accuse..!)
State/Misuse of power - Oppression - Famine - Ukraine/History 1931-33 - Kosovo/History 1993 - Traveller's journal
This is one of the first titles in a new, daring and elegantly designed series focussing on human rights. The name of the series is taken from Zola's famous outcry "J'accuse!" in the French press on January 13, 1898. Its principle is simple. Two stories frame an extensive documentary middle section. In this case, the first historical report deals with the events in the Ukraine during a great famine in 1933, which was precipitated by the Soviet Union to gain access to power. The author draws on documents and eye-witness accounts of refugees in France and survivors in the Ukraine. The second historical report is a diary of a humanitarian aid project in Kosovo in 1993. Because the author succeeds in maintain a distance to the events being described, the reader is able to deal with the gruesome suffering in an objective manner. The elegant design of the volume contrasts with its content and weakens its effect to some extent. (15+) ✧

114
Pommaux (text/illus.)
Une nuit, un chat...
(A night, a cat ...)
Paris: L' Ecole des loisirs, 1994. [30pp]
ISBN 2-211-027-741
Cat - Father/Conflict - Adventure - Nighttime - First love
Even in cat families the day comes when the youngest offspring goes out at night alone. The worried father follows his son secretly and intervenes discretely and unrecognized whenever danger arises. Breathlessly the reader follows Groucho's first adventures in the darkened city, which the illustrator has masterly staged in a series of pictures. The nighttime scenery, the slanted rooftops, the motionless statues, the threatening shadows are impressive. On secret corners, on the large square, there is an active nightlife for cats. All the cat protagonists are attired in clothing and endowed with the human characteristics. Groucho has a happy and a dangerous encounter. The next night he goes out again. In this humorous and well-drawn picture book Pommaux succeeds once again in transposing general human experience to the animal world. (5+) ☼
Sélection Livrimages 1994

Switzerland (French)

☺ Special Mention

115
Bille, Corinna (text)
Hainard, Robert (illus.)
Le mystère du monstre
(The mysterious monster)
Genève: La Joie de lire, 1994. [34pp]
ISBN 2-88258-044-4
Wallis/Monster - Wolf hunt - Media
In dialogue with her two little children, a mother tells about the tragicomic events which came to pass in the highest village in the canton of Wallis. An unidentifiable monster began to terrorize the inhabitants, stealing sheep and chickens night after night. The case become more and more widely known, a public disgrace, but no

solution was found - until by chance months later a large wolf was shot. The story is so lively written that it really seems authentic. The personalities in this small community in the mountains are superbly characterized, the ups and downs of hope and error make the reader smile. With the help of the pencil drawings and colored prints of the well-known Swiss animal artist Hainard the publisher has succeeded in creating a minor work of art. (8+)

116
Chaillot, Nicole (text)
With illus. chosen by Agnès Rosenstiehl
Europe est une femme (Europe is a Woman)
Paris / Genève: La Nacelle, 1994. 57pp
(Musée Imaginaire)
ISBN 2-88393-028-7
Art appreciation - Art history - Painting - Cultural history - Feminism

In this nonfiction picture book numerous portraits and pictures by famous artists from several centuries, citations from the works of famous writers and philosophers from the Roman times up to today document the role which women have been relegated by men in society and in the arts. Two children, a boy and a girl, discover page after page the passive role of the woman, who is supposed to be young and beautiful, and the prejudices under which women suffered in past epochs. The lovely, meticulously laid-out book is not only an interesting work on cultural history but also a history of women's liberation. Its unusual perspective deserves particular attention. (11+)

117
Pef (text/illus.)
Je m'appelle Adolphe (My Name is Adolf)
Paris / Genève: La Nacelle, 1994. [42pp]
ISBN 2-88393-025-2
National Socialism - Hitler, Adolf - Peace/Pedagogy - Right-wing radicalism

Well-known in France for his humorous books, the author-illustrator Pef ventures to take on a serious subject, a treatment of his childhood memories during and immediately after the Second World War. Somewhere in France there is a boy named Adolf who bears a fatal resemblance to a historical figure. His easy-going parents have no time for him. He leaves home and goes alone into the woods where he meets a group of Neonazis having a wild party and a woman who survived the concentration camps. Both encounters are nearly fatal. Only when the old woman has explained to him the historical background does he begin to understand. This parable of the unreliability of memory, misleading appearances, and the necessity of passing on historical knowledge is consternating and folting. The narrative seems to be fragmented, and little Hitler is a tragicomical figure. Nonetheless, or precisely therefore, it is a book which has a feeling of immediacy - enhanced by the style of the illustrations - and forms an important addition to the literature on this subject. (9+) ✧

Tunisia

118
Pierre, Bernard (text)
Courmont, Isabelle (illus.)
Mille et un Nil (A thousand and one Niles)
Tunis: Alif, les Editions de la Méditerranée / n.p.: Hatier, 1993. [10pp]
ISBN 2-218-06968-7
Nile River/History 322 B.C. - 1990 A.D. - Nile River/Flora and Fauna

The Alif publishing house, renown for its interesting picture and illustrated nonfiction books has been collaborating for several years with the Paris publisher Hatier to produce elaborate pop-up books dealing with the Mediterranean region. Each book is a success not only aesthetically, but also as a source of scientifically sound information. This most recent volume provides a many-facetted overview of the historical and geographical significance of the Nile. Even smaller children can become acquainted with the rich animal and plant kingdom, the highly diversified landscape. Older children will profit from the highly informative text. (5+)

Italy

119
Alberti, Rossella (text/illus.)
Racconti dal Camerun (Tales from Cameroon)
Pasian di Prato: Campanotto, 1994. 173pp
(Campanotto Narrativa; 40)
no ISBN
Cameroon/Fairy tales - Cameroon/Fables
Due to its multifacetted environment and heterogeneous population, Cameroon is also known as "little Africa." It also has a literature based on a rich, oral tradition. Fairy tales, fables and stories from this corpus have been gathered together here by Rosella Alberti and arranged in capitals subsumed under different animals. The last chapter deals with human stories. Quite understandably, typical African animals (turtles, hyenas) play major roles but as in other cultures they embody certain basic archetypes (e.g. good and evil) and behaviors. (8+) ✧

120
Carpi, Pinin (text/illus.)
Marilena Rescaldani (illus.)
Il fantasma che aveva paura dei fantasmi : e altre storie da ridere per la paura
(The ghost who was afraid of ghosts and other stories to laugh at when afraid)
Firenze: Giunti, 1994. 94pp
(Le fiabe fantastiche di Pinin Carpi; 6)
ISBN 88-09-20500-6
Ghost - Spirits - Vampires
A ghost which is afraid of other ghosts and a librarian who collects them. Very spooky, creepy and strange events take place in Pinin Carpi's tales. Vampires and ghosts in classical fluttering garb inhabit gloomy castles and vacant houses. But these eight tales are none too scary; they are no so much suited to causing fright as to creating laughs. This large-sized book is accompanied by numerous colored illustrations. Some of the tales were illustrated by the author himself.

121
Lazzarato, Francesca (text)
Costa, Nicoletta (illus.)
L'esilio di re Salomone : storie, leggende e fiabe della tradizione ebraica
(King Solomon's banishment: Stories, legends and tales from the Jewish tradition)
Milano: Mondadori, 1994. 80pp
(Fiabe Junior; 8)
ISBN 88-04-37722-4
Jews/Tales
These short, sometimes anecdotal tales, legends and stories on a variety of themes are derived from the rich Jewish storytelling tradition. Nicoletta Costa has contributed simple and happy, at times poetic illustrations. An appendix contains concise details of the history, cultural tradition and current situation of Jews all around the world. Among the volumes already published in this paperback series, which was initiated to acquaint young readers with tales of many different cultures, are also, for example, tales from Senegal, the Philippines, etc. (9+) ✧

☺ ***Special Mention***

122

Panini, Giorgio P. (text)

Atlante di Mitologia
(Atlas of Mythology)
With illus.
Milano: Mondadori, 1994. 128pp
ISBN 88-04-38977-X

Mythology - Legend

This illustrated volume takes an unaccustomed glimpse at the mythology of various cultures and epochs by placing the mythological figures - the heroes - in the foreground. Two aspects of this work make it especially attractive: first, the term "myth" is interpreted so broadly that no only classic, e.g. Greek or Germanic, myths are included, but also new, literary ones, such as the heart-breaker Don Giovanni. (It would have made sense to include still-living myths of our modern society such as film stars). Secondly, the author has dispensed with a geographic or chronological order and instead arranged the figures of various origins together by theme or motif. This creates quite surprising cross-sections and allows interesting comparisons. For example, Achilles is to be found alongside Siegfried in the group of "the vulnerable;" and among the group of "those born in an unusual manner" one finds Orion and also Pinocchio. The volume is richly illustrated with pictures of art works, famous book illustrations, or scenes from films. Picture symbols make it easy for the reader to associate a figure with its origin. (14+) ✧

123

Pitzorno, Bianca (text)
Blake, Quentin (illus.)

Diana Cupído e il Commendatore
(Diana, Cupid and the Commander)
Milano: Mondadori, 1994. 300pp
ISBN 88-04-38986-9

Sardinia/History 1950s/Everyday life - Small town - Puberty/Girl - Family

Together with her mother and little sister, eleven-year-old Diana goes to live with her grandfather, a strange, affluent cinema owner in Sardinia. The novel depicts life in a small Italian town and the everyday life of a teenager and her three girlfriends (who the reader already encountered in *Ascolta il mio cuore*), who are in the midst of puberty, and their idolization of American film stars. Above all this is a tale about Italy in the 1950s: "Even refrigerators were seen as a real rarity. There were no supermarkets, no hamburgers, neither Coca Cola, nor disposable diapers or frozen foods" The author's talent lays in very apt descriptions with a distinctive choice of words in a dynamic and humorous style. The well-known illustrator Quentin Blake has contributed congenial black-and-white wash illustrations. (12+)

124

Quarzo, Guido (text)
Fatus, Sophie (illus.)

Zampe di gallina
(Chicken feet)
Firenze: Fatatrac, 1994. 64pp
ISBN 88-86228-25-2

Old Woman/Child - Chicken - Imagination - Storytelling

In an old fairy tale - so the book begins - deep in the woods there is a hut standing on chicken feet and in it lives a witch who eats people as if they were chickens. But in this book there is a little house amidst the tall buildings and the loud traffic of a big city. While all the adults rush by blindly and have no idea that this house exists, the children ask what it is doing there. One day curious little Ulisse enters the house and makes friends with its occupants, a talking chicken and an old peculiar woman who can tell stories particulary well. And that is what the book, with its imaginative, brightly colored illustrations, is all about: stories and storytelling, the unlimited possibilities of the imagination. (6+)

Italy (Ladin)

125
Rossi, Hugo de (text)
D'Este, Alessandra (illus.)
Chiocchetti, Fabio (transl.)
La ziriola de Saslonch
(The Nightingale of Saslong)
Vich/Vigo di Fassa: Istitut Cultural Ladin, 1994. [28pp]
(Conta Conties; 19)
ISBN 88-86053-08-8
Fairy tale/Italy/Ladin - Princess - Metamorphosis - Nightingale - Knight - Lovesickness - Unrequited Love - Death
A knight falls in love with a nightingale - in reality a princess who possesses the power of metamorphosis. The knight senses that something else is hiding within the bird, but because the princess does not reveal herself to him, his longings remain unfulfilled and he dies of lovesickness. Upon his death the princess loses her ability to change back into her human form. Hugo de Rossi, who did much to preserve the Ladin cultural heritage, wrote down this old tale in German at the turn of the century. The Ladin translation is graced with colored, naive illustrations by Alessandra d'Este. The publisher of this series, the Institute Cultural Ladin, has set itself the task of translating well-known and lesser-known tales and stories into the minority language of Ladin, thus making them available to a broader readership. (4+) ✧

Latin America:

Argentina (Spanish)

126
Montes, Graciela (text)
Roldán, Gustavo (illus.)
Venancio vuela bajito (Venancio flies too low)
Buenos Aires: AZ editora, 1994. [16pp]
(serie del boleto)
ISBN 950-534-241-1
Dog - Flying
"It's not true that dogs cannot fly. They just like to fly quite low." So begins the story of the dog Venancio who learns to fly and to everyone's astonishment whizzes through the air - for instance, to the butcher's shop two streets away. But in time protests grow louder because the rather plump Venancio reveals himself to be a notorious low-flyer who reeks all kinds of havor, such as landing in Professor Gutiérrez' potato casserole. Finally he must put an end to his excursions, though he is allowed to continue his aerial arts at home. This curious story is full of witty charm and bizarre eccentric events. Equally original are the water-color illustrations, a mixture of comic art and the wild colorfulness of children's paintings. (3+)

127
Shua, Ana María (text)
Dias Costa, Mariza (illus.)
Cuentos Judíos con Fantasmas & Demonios
(Jewish tales of ghosts and demons)
Buenos Aires: Shalom, 1994. 168pp
no ISBN
Jews/Mythology - Fantasy
In writing the eight tales in this collection Ana María Shua let herself be inspired by stories, themes, motifs and characters from the rich Jewish oral tradition, such as the legendary and mysterious figures of the

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✧ books whose content is found.contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples

○ books with easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics

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Golem or the Baalshem. On the basis of familiar folktales she has created new fantasy tales in order to emphasize what is unusual and particularly Jewish about them. Various ghosts and demons are first introduced in a foreword and at the end of each tale, the author gives the details of the origin and history of the content. An unusual book which introduces the reader to an unfamiliar, fascinating world. (12+) ✧

Brazil (Portuguese)

☺ *Special Mention*

128
Lago, Angela (illus.)
Cena de rua (Street scene)
Belo Horizonte: RHJ, 1994. [28pp]
ISBN 85-7153-067-X
Latin America - City - Homeless Child - Poverty - Ostracization - Outsider

This wordless picture book shows scenes of everday life of a street boy caught up in the vicious circle of poverty, hunger and theft, between the cars in the heavy traffic of a big city where he scrapes a living as a streetside seller. Though he appears to be in close contact with people, passersby react to him with fear and aggressively reject him. His yearning for security remains unfulfilled. The oppressive scenes on the black-bordered double-page spreads are bathed in an artificial light. The flat, glaring colors elucidate the aggressive, threatening atmosphere of the big city. Unusual perspectives underline the confinement and the chaos, everything is in motion, there is nothing offering him support or protection. In this book Angela Lago shows a completely new side of her many-facetted talent. The Brasilian illustrator has already won several international prizes. In 1994 she was the Brazilian nominee for the Hans Christian Andersen Prize. (6+)

129
Rangel, Paulo (text)
Moura, Ercília (illus.)
As uvas do Marengo : Memórias de um menino bem comportado
(The grapes of Marengo: the memoir of a well-mannered boy)
Belo Horizonte: Lê, 1993. 148pp
(Transalivre; 15)
no ISBN
Brazil/Childhood/Boy - Memoir/Boy

A nine-year-old boy wants more than anything else to be allowed to spend a day at Chacará de Marengo. Actually nothing more than a resort for day excursions, he imagines it to be more tempting than paradise. Under the provision that he and his brothers not get into too much trouble, the father, a very busy gynaecologist, agrees to fulfill this dream. In retrospect the nearly grown-up narrator depicts the often comical efforts the boys made to meet the father's requirement. But in the end it is all in vain. Chacará de Marengo remains an unfulfilled childhood dream. Paulo Rangel succeeds in giving a very vivid description of family life through his witty narrative and to-the-point portrayal of the catastrophes in everyday life. (14+)

Mexico (Spanish)

130
Libura, Krystyna / Claudia Burr / María Cristina Urrutia (text)
De lo que contaron al fraile
(What they told the monk)
México: Tecolote: SEP, 1994. [32pp]
(Colección Ya verás)
ISBN 968-7381-06-X
Mexico/History - Aztecs

The series "Colección Ya verás" offers glimpses into various epochs and events in Mexican history. The editors and authors have turned to historical texts and pictures from the respective periods in order to make their portrayals as authentic as possible. In this volume Aztec society is depicted on the basis of *Historia general de las cosas de Nueva España* by Bernardo de Sahagún. The book's content of short, adapted texts from the original, accompanied by illustrations from the *Codex Florentinus*. As in the other volumes of the series, only some of the historical highlights can be presented, but an interested reader will be stimulated in any case to find out more about the subject. (10+) ✧

Portugal

131
Ducla Soares, Luísa (text)
Bacelar, Manuela (illus.)
Os ovos misteriosos (The mysterious eggs)
Porto: Afrontamento, 1994. [36pp]
ISBN 972-36-0338-1
Chicken - Egg - Nature - Difference - Friendship

A chicken escapes into the woods one day and is greatly surprised one day to find several peculiar eggs in her nest. But she broods over them all and one by one the new "children" are hatched: a crocodile, an ostrich, a parrot, and a snake. Though due to their own respective characteristics this brood is not exactly easy to care for, she raises them with loving care. This proves to be a blessing when her own little chick gets into danger. Told in simple words, this text makes an ingenious case for respecting differences between living creatures, as well as for friendship and helpfulness. The idea of colorful diversity is given expression in the lively, colored illustrations. (4+) ○

132
Torrado, António (text)
Melo, Ângela (illus.)
O mercador de coisa nenhuma (The merchant who sold Nothing)
Porto: Civilização, 1994. 41pp
ISBN 972-26-1034-1
Short Stories/Portuguese - Fairy Tale/Portugal/Anthology

Anthology of seven short texts. Lyrical stories like the fairy tale of the merchant who sells sparkling water drops, colored grains of sand and other seemingly useless "goods"; or amazing stories like the tale of the bicycle rider who went for a ride in the sky one day. The narrative structure and language of this prose are striking for simplicity and clarity, creating a particularly fascinating contrast to the unusual, sometimes enigmatic content. Each story is introduced with an illustration: pastel-colored, equally enigmatic pictures with surrealistic elements done in a mixed technique of water-color and line drawing. This book is part of a new series which includes both traditional and newer fairy tales and stories, all (re-) told by António Torrado. Each volume is illustrated by several, in part very well-known Portuguese illustrators. (9+)

Spain (Spanish)

☺ *Special Mention*

133
Cañizo, José Antonio del
¡Canalla, traidor, morirás! (Scoundrel, traitor, you will die!)
Madrid: SM, 1994. 106pp
(El Barco de Vapor / Serie Roja; 77)
ISBN 84-348-4336-3
School holiday - Village - Spanish Civil War/Post-war

The narrator recalls a summer in a village in the Castilian mountains where he spent his school holidays as a child - above all reading exciting comic books, playing Indians or gazing at the starry heavens at night. These are also the Franco years of law-and-order, just after the end of the Spanish Civil War. So it was no wonder that a citation from a comic ("Scoundrel, traitor, you will die") thoughtlessly scribbled on a stone sets off a considerable upcry, which ends sadly with the imprisonment of a solitary former Republican soldier who had been hiding in the mountains. José Antonio del Cañizo succeeds in portraying the various moods and sides of character in the young boy in a lively and discriminating manner: child-like curiosity and joy of adventure, fear of choleric adults, a sense of justice, guilt feelings and a powerless sadness over the loss of a barely known human being. This is a wonderful story - enthralling, full of ideas, humane, sometimes serious, but without pathos and, despite the subject, on the whole quite witty, light and humorous. (12+)

134
Estrada, Rafael (text)
Gabán, Jesús (illus.)
El rey Solito (King Allalone)
Madrid: SM, 1994. 64pp
(El Barco de Vapor / Serie Blanca; 56)
ISBN 84-348-4354-4
King - Loneliness - Self-suggestion - Roleplaying

When everone deserts a kingdom befallen by poverty, only little King "Allalone" remains behind. Out of loneliness and boredom he takes on a variety of roles: he becomes the horn-blower or the servant and even conducts war against himself, trying "at least to kill time." His longing for human company becomes ever stronger and along with it his ability for self-deception. Finally he even takes himself in marriage just to be no longer so alone. His illusions dissolve in the end when a real-life shepherdess stands before the castle one day, bringing him back to reality and providing him with a happy-end. The humorous and at the same time poetic fairy tale is told in a simple voice. The text is aptly accompanied by numerous comic-like, delicately colored drawings. (6+)

135
Gisbert, Joan Manuel
Los espejos venecianos (The one-way mirrors)
Zaragoza: Edelvives, 1994. 135pp
(Sueños de papel; 1)
ISBN 84-263-2734-6
Padua/History 1792 - Student - Palace - Phantom - Superstition - Science

This novel is set in 1792 in the Italian university town of Padua. A young student of history, Giovanni, discovers a palace in ruins which is the object of dark legends. Mysterious events occur, persons appear and disappear, old documents provide coded clues. With sharp intelligence and the aid of covert helpers, Giovanni succeeds in discovering the secret of the ancient building. Well known for his fantastic tales, which often have historical backgrounds, Gisbert combines here the elements of historical fiction, mystery and ghost stories. He is clever at leading his protagonists - and readers - astray. The dicisive question here - what is real, what is imaginary - is answered only at the very end. A thrilling, entertaining and masterly told story. (12+)

136
Lindo, Elvira (text)
Urberuaga, Emilio (illus.)
Manolito Gafotas (Manolito Four-eyes)
(Manolito Brillenschlange)
Madrid: Alfaguara, 1994. 136pp
ISBN 84-204-4856-7
Madrid - Family/Boy - School - Everyday life/Metropolis

Manolito Gafotas, a clever youth living in a not so posh suburb of Madrid, has an energetic mother, an eccentric grandfather, good friends, a little brother he calls "Imbecile", an overworked school psychologist and, above all, lots of things to tell about. He passes through life with his eyes and ears wide open, snapping up words adults use and endowing them with his own meaning, telling the reader about his experiences and thoughts as best he can. With staggering logic and a dry humor he depicts the various episodes of his daily life in a style reminiscent of Goscinny's "Little Nick." With Manolito Gafotas, the hero of a favorite Spanish radio program since 1987, the reader learns in an entertaining manner much about a child's life in a Spanish metropolis. (12+) ✧

137
Xirinacs, Olga (text)
Balzola, Asun (illus.)
El árbol de mi patio
(The tree in my courtyard)
Barcelona: Edebé, 1994. 32pp
(tren azul; 16)
ISBN 84-236-3391-8
Tree/Anecdote

Chestnut tree, laural tree, weeping willow, etc. : each of Olga Xirinacs' short, imaginative pieces focuses on a representative of a particular tree species. These "protagonists" are living beings just like people or animals, they have souls, and quite unspectacular experiences, which prompt the reader to think about our "neighbor," the tree. The well-known Spanish artist Asun Balzola created unusual color illustrations to accompany these lyrical texts. With their sharp contours and glowing monochrom surfaces, the figures resemble linoleum cuts, but in fact they are the result of computer based graphics. (5+) ○

Spain (Catalan)

138
Alcoberro, Agustí
Procés a Anna Boixadors
(The Trial of Anna Boixadors)
Barcelona: Cruïlla, 1993. 95pp
(Gran Angular; 55)
ISBN 84-7629-797-1
Catalan/History 1617 - Superstition - Witch-hunting

Rampant superstition, hysteria fomented by professional witch-hunters and the search for scapegoats in 17th century Europe spread also into Catalan villages. This is the fictitious story of the trial of the old Anna Boixador as told from the perspective of a young man who, inspite of his own initial prejudices, sympathizes with the accused. In crass contrast to the personal narrative are the scattered excerpts of the similarly fictitious minutes of the trial. The dry style of the proceedings makes visible in an uneasy manner the unstoppable course of the wheels of justice and the business-like atrocity of the persecutors and tormentors. (14+)

139
Janer Manila, Gabriel (adapt.)
Montserrat, Pep (illus.)
Això era un gegant (That was a giant)
Barcelona: La Galera, 1994. [36pp]
(el sac de la Galera / sac de gegants; 1)
ISBN 84-246-4205-8
Spain/Catalan/Fairy Tale - Giant - Gargantua <Motif>

Renown Spanish authors and illustrators were commissioned to contribute to the series "el sac de la Galera", which intends to show how richly endowed the world of fairy tales, legends and myths is with giants, fairies, dragons and similar creatures. Each subseries focusses on one of these classic figures with adaptations of well-known themes such as the Catalan version of Rapunzel or, in this volume, a retelling of Gargantua. A short postscript gives the source and history of the motif as it is found in different forms in various countries. Its unusual design gives this new series a characteristic image and offers considerable reading pleasure. 6+ ✧.

140
Luna, Marta (ed.)
Losantos, Cristina (illus.)
Cançoner de Nadal (Christmas carol book)
Barcelona: La Galera, 1994. [28pp]
(la Galera popular; 16)
ISBN 84-246-1436-4
Christmas Carols/Catalan/Anthology

Each double-page spread of this volume presents a traditional Catalan Christmas carol. On the left side the verses, on the right side the illustrations pen-and-wash drawings which give a humorous interpretation of the text by means of witty associations with modern times. The book invites the reader to read and look, but also to sing and make music, since the two-part songs are reprinted in the appendix with music and guitar chorts. What makes this small collection so unusual is the way in which it presents Christmas customes which are otherwise so often introduced in an unimaginative and traditional manner. The series "la Galera" received an honorable mention for the Premio Grafico at the 1994 Bologna Children's Book Fair. (4+) ✧

Scandinavian Languages

Denmark

141
Jensen, Jørn (text)
Raagaard, Kirsten (illus.)
Spis din burger, Musa!
(Eat your hamburger, Musa!)
København: Forum, 1994. 24pp
(Musa bøgerne)
ISBN 87-553-2108-9
Islam - Christianity - Eating habits - Foreigner - Tolerance

In this short tale for beginning readers about the Moslem child Musa and his concern that there may be pork in his hamburger, children are shown how to tolerate religious practices of other cultures without having to approve them ("We too have a God," says Susi. "He doesn't get involved in our choice of food.") The attractive black-and-white drawings, though making up a great portion of the book, are subordinate to the text. (6-8) ✧ ☼

142
Nielsen, Erik Hjorth (text/illus.)
Gunløg Ormstunge
(Gunloeg the dragonchild)
Hillerød: Alma, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 87-7243-156-3
Iceland/Legend - Vikings/History 1000

Nielsen relates here an episode from the Icelandic legends, a drama-filled love story, of course, and richly illustrates it with large, dramatic picture, which inspite of the more impresive colored chalk technique endeavors to be historically and geographically precise. Since interest in the romanticism of the Vikings remains consistently high among younger book-lovers, spurred on by countless fantasy stories which uninhibitedly make use of the Nordic Middle Ages, readers will be well-served with this novel's suspense and authentic local color. (8-10) ☼

143
Vizki, Morti (text)
Champfleury, Alice de
Kiko den syngende hund
(Kiko, the singing dog)
København: Høst & Søn, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 87-14-19233-0

Dog - Singer <Career> - Adventure
As is common in fairy tales, two of three brother dogs choose solid professions, while the third feels drawn to music. He finds a singing teacher and after much toil and trouble becomes a real opera singer. This amusingly told story, with its light scattering of colored caricatural illustrations, conveys an optimistic view of life infused with self-assurance, goal-orientedness, and the rewards of sucess. (8-10)

144
Christiansen, Ole E.
Mimers brønd: opslagsbog om nordisk mytologi
(Mimers fountain: dictionary of Nordic mythology)
Frederiksberg: Branner og Korch, 1994. 196pp
ISBN 87-411-5744-3
Mythology/Northern Europe - Dictionary/Mythology
Anyone who craves to know exactly which figures are based on real historical and mythological material when they have finished devouring all the fantasy literature by writers from Tolkien to Hohlbein would be grateful for this little dictionary, if it were available in other languages. Whether one wants to know about Asgård, Midgård, Niflheim oder Walhall, the mysterious Yggdrasil (well known to crossword puzzlers or players of the game "Categories") and its strange inhabitants Hugin, Munin, Garm, or whatever their names are, there are short entries included here for each of them. In an introduction one learns about the Germanic system of beliefs. The only thing lacking is more informative visual material. (10+) ✧

145
Bredsdorff, Bodil
Tink: Børnene i Kragevig 3
(Tink: The children in Kragevig, Part 3)
København: Høst & Søn, 1994. 112pp
ISBN 87-14-19254-3
Denmark/History 19th century - Country life - Xenophobia
Perhaps our need for stories about the simple life where, like Robinson Crusoe, each person must rely on his own knowledge to get along in life, is at its greatest when our civilized way of life allows us to have the least contact with a still unspoiled nature. There have often been books whose heros were a group of children - with or without adults - as for example in Laura Fitinghoff's "The Children of Frostmo Mountain" or A. Th. Sonnleitner's cave children. Bodil Bredsdorff continues this tradition and succeeds in turning the search for a new place to live, a new home, into a cleverly woven tale complete with all the complications which ensue when different types of people try to live together. While in the first two volumes of this four volume series a little too much romanticism with sunrise mornings and candlelight evenings predominated, this volume is a very readable adventure story involving the relationship of young Tink to the old drunkard Burd. (10-14)

146
Koch, Peter Gjellerup
Mig og Manet (Me and Manet)
Frederiksberg: Branner og Korch, 1994. 196pp
ISBN 87-411-5744-3
Artist - Personality development - Love - Sexual abuse
A young boy is captivated with a picture by Manet and decides to become a painter himself. He finds himself involved with a strange lot of companions, both in a positive and negative sense, and in the end wins the love of a young girl. Original in this book, which treats the problems of youth so openly, is the mixture of an arty

background and the often brutal manner (even to the point of a rape victim killing the perpetrator) in which youthful self-assertiveness and egoism finds expression. With this second novel Koch makes a further contribution to that young adult literature by authors who do not address their audience out of pedagogical motivation, but because they hope to find the greatest appreciation for their kind of literary endeavors. (15+)

Greenland

☺ ***Special Mention***

147
Maqe, Elisa (reteller)
Rosing, Jens (illus.)
Tunumiit mersertini oqalittuaat (East Greenlandic children's stories)
København: Atuakkiorfik, 1994. 75pp
ISBN 87-558-1040-3
East Greenland/Short stories/Anthology
The lack of literature for Geenlanders and their children is often complained of in the Danish press. Only a few books are being published in Greenlandic, an Eskimo language, leaving the children of Greenland dependent upon books in Danish. Thus the efforts of a few publishing houses which take an interest in Greenland's children's literature are to be commended. Even the dialect of East Greenlandic is given a place in this collection of folk tales for children. Because it is hardly spoken anymore, these eight tales, retellings of old fairy-tale like traditional stories, are also printed in West Greenlandic, Danish and English. Knowledge of the dialect had nearly disappeared; the only one able to pass down the dialect today is the farmer Elisa Maqe, born in 1916 and granddaughter of a shaman. The realistic, slightly grotesque illustrations by a Greenland artist retain the authentic landscape of these fairy tale-like episodes. (6-10) ✧

148
Jacobsen, Miki (reteller)
Olsen, Rosing (illus.)
Kaassassuk (Proper name)
København: Atuakkiorfik, 1994. 36pp
ISBN 87-558-0953-7
Fairy tales/Greenland
Already made known to the German-speaking reader in an anthology by Lisa Tetzner, the grotesque tale of the poor ugly orphan boy Kaassassuk, who is teased by his playmates, but helps his foster parents by way of his extraordinary strength is available here in the original version. The naive realistic illustrations of the Greenland artist give an impressive portrayal of the scenes of the tale set in an authentic, pre-industrial Greenland. (6-10) ✧

Norway

149
Egeberg, Ingri
Hvis Åshild hadde vært her (Yes, if only Åshild were here)
Oslo: Gyldendal Norsk, 1994. 35pp
ISBN 82-05-22622-9
Only child - School holidays - Adventure - Playmate
A typical Scandinavian holiday in a wood cabin on the water - very lonely especially when Father is not there and one has no brothers or sisters. The arrival of a playmate is the happy-end of this singular picture book. The artist's brilliant draughtsmanship successfully transforms the composition principles of a black-and-white comic into a very lively series of episodes (strewed in a good-night story) put down with an ink pen rushing over the paper, full of expressive movement, constantly breaking up the pictures' borderlines. (8+)

150
Hagerup, Klaus
Markus og Diana: Lyset fra Sirius
(Mark and Diana: the light of Sirius)
Oslo: Aschehoug, 1994. 185pp
ISBN 82-03-24063-1
Shyness - Swindle - Film star - Personanlity development
When an easily frightened and shy Mark encounters a young local film actress to whom he had written for an autogramm; it turns out that she is no more a Hollywood star than he a millionaire's son. The realization that people are often different than they seem helps him to gain more self-assurance. This fourth young adult novel by the experienced writer of radio and stage plays derives its literary qualities not so much from the story, though it is original enough, as from the clear speech, full of understated wit, a discreet irony that doesn't need the flighty jargon of youth and also from skillfully developed scenes and lively dialogues. (12+)

151
Mitchell, Ingelil
Tårnbjørnen: Spillet om tiden (The tower bear: a play about time)
Oslo: J.W. Cappelen, 1994
ISBN 82-02-14383-7
Time - Days of week - Name giving - Marionette theater
This is a lyrical elaboration of the names of the week (the Germanic version), embedded in a marionette theater play performed by a bear. It can be enjoyed for itself, but also as an excuse to create very poetic pictures, extravagent pictures of unusually intensive and extraordinarily harmonious colorfulness. (6-8)

152
Sossen (text)
Krohg, Guy (illus.)
Hvor ble det av Hansemann?
(What is keeping Hansemann?)
Oslo: Gyldendal Norsk, 1994. 28pp
ISBN 82-05-21763-7
Opera - Lost/Search
Subtly intertwined in a bizarre and eccentric story about four-year-old Hansemann - who runs off just before the children's opera "Journey to the Christmas Star" begins and must be searched for by his sister and the opera house staff - the reader is given an amusing introduction into the world of theater. However, it is not this frequently employed didactic trick which makes the book noteworthy, but instead the illustrations. Krohg, son of a highly regarded Norwegian painter, has created light-hearted, roughly cut, color collages. The unusual aesthetic experience which they create is inspired by Schwitters; yet by using pieces of old wood cuts Krohg also makes reference to the Biedermeier style of amateur hobby collages (such as found in Andersen's works). (6+)

Sweden

153
Danielsson, Bernt
booze
Stockholm: Pan (Norstedt), 1994. 204pp
ISBN 91-1-937441-0
Alcoholism - Seduction - Death
Of course prohibition still reigns in Sweden, of course no book can be published which glorifies alcohol, especially not for young adults - but this wonderfully inebriating book deals with the fascination of intoxicating drinks and their effects on people, on art and literature - on our culture as such. Danielsson, who was perhaps a little too enamored with his own self-made linguistic coctails of English and Swedish in earlier books (such as in "Härifrån till Kim" - From here to Kim), has found a style here that, while still a mixture, no longer serves

up arbitrary snatches of English, but rather a rich array of pearls of Swedish vernacular that one will seek in vain in standard dictionaries, and avoids falling into a short-lived teenage slang. (14+)

154
Gelotte, Ann-Madeleine (text/illus.)
Brev från en kanin (Letters from a rabbit)
Stockholm: Tiden, 1994. 179pp
ISBN 91-550-4066-7
Rabbit <Literary figure> - Reality - Fantasy

Falling out of a book by Beatrix Potter into the real world, two rabbits and their mother are hence forced to cope with a world much too large and awkward for them. In this hommage to Beatrix Potter, the author succeeds in creating funny, eccentric episodes out of the confrontations between the somewhat conservative rabbit mother and her children with the contemporary world in the form of a farmyard and its many animal residents. This is an easy-to-read text which will surely provide entertaining reading for everyone. (8+) ○

☺ Special Mention

155
Lagercrantz, Rose (text)
Spang Olsen, Ib (illus.)
Lilla Geo eller Flickan som kunde lura döden
(Little Geo, or the girl who fooled death)
Stockholm: Bromberg, 1994. 63pp.
ISBN 91-7608-652-6
France/History 1900-1950 - Illegitimate child - Vitality

In this pleasantly short book one has all the world in a nutshell: love, death, poverty, war, mercy, child-like hope, courage and good fortune. In so few pages the author unfolds, as if in passing, a virtual Comédie humaine in which each episode is a short story, an embryonic novel. The foil to a chunk of real family history in France, as befits our century, could hardly be more dismal than that against which Georgette, a child born out of wedlock and soon orphaned, makes her way into a secure middle-class existence. Stimulating and impressive are the illustrations - the work of an old master - which through their authenticity (he travelled to France especially for this purpose) take on an urgency that no reader, no child can escape. The extremely reticent form of these black-and-white pencil drawings are surprising for their concentrated atmosphere and dramatic force, which is enhanced in every sense by a nervous line of seldom found finesse, even by Spang Olsen himself. Turn-of-the-century atmosphere, cityscape, tender mother-love, but also human baseness even to exhibitionism in action (in the background, but clearly visible) - everything that makes the eye keen and the imagination winged is found in abundance on these few pages. (8+) ✧ ○

156
Nilsson, Ulf (text)
Gustavsson, Jan (illus.)
Råttan kommer! (The rat is coming!)
Stockholm: Bonniers junior, 1993. 32pp
ISBN 91-48-52135-3
Hobo - Social isolation - Oppression - Liberation - Remorse

A hobo rat, who himself has turned mean through constant social ostracization and persecution, becomes an oppressor of weaker mice from whom he steals food. But one heroic little mouse succeeds with her child-like optimism in stirring his heart so much that he feels remorse for his deeds. With this short story, Nilsson, who by now has made a name for himself as an author of fable-like animal stories for the best Swedish illustrators, takes issue with the in times of crisis all too readily accepted motto "homo monini lupus." Its illustrations are on the same par as the story. The physiognomy is apt and funny, the episodes are cleverly depicted. Jan Gustavsson is among the best realitistic modern illustrators. (8+)

157
Persson, Gunilla Linn (text)
Höglund, Anna (illus.)
Delfinen mellan mussla och moln (The dolphin between shells and clouds)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 1994. 32pp
ISBN 91-638-3102-3
Loneliness - Self-knowledge - Strangeness - Understanding - Sibling rivalry

Again and again one astounds at how popular this very individualistic illustrator is with Swedish readers. The reason that she has such success with her bizarre and strongly stylized pictures may have something to do with young readers being schooled by today's grotesque comic series. Yet Persson is certainly not giving them easily understood topics. It is not possible to depict in only a few words the absurd situation of a lonely woman having a dolphin as a substitute for a child delivered to her house and getting used to its unusal wishes. He helps her to find a new will to live and she helps him to overcome his jealousy of a younger sibling,. To be thrown off the track of everyday life for a few moments and thereby find one's own self is a tension-filled story that the reader will find rewarding. (8+)

158
Wahlin, Bertil (text)
Hagstrand-Velicu, Kerstin (illus.)
Småkrypsboken (The book of small animals)
Stockholm: Tiden, 1994. 128 pp
ISBN 91-550-3899-9
Insects - Reptiles - Field guide/Animals

These two Swedes have created a clearly organized and easy to use field guide for everything that flies and crawls around us Europeans at home, in the garden and in the neighborhood day in and day out. The text is limited to naming and describing animals and their activities, without too much superfluous knowledge; included are clear, painstakingly executed color illustrations which are even more informative than photographs, since they do not confuse the reader with ingenious and decorative close-ups, which are often more for sales-promoting than illuminating. (10+)

Other Languages

Cyprus

159
Chrysantes, Kypros
O Arestes, o kypriotes Akritas (Arestes, the Cypriot border-fighter)
With illus.
Leukosia: Epiphaniu, 1993. 57pp
no ISBN
Saracen - Father/Son - Heroism

A historical novel set in the days of the Saracens. The newly-wed nobleman Azguras is commissioned by the king to go into battle against the Saracens. He conquers them, but falls into the hands of his enemy. Several months later his wife gives birth to a son who, it soon becomes clear, possesses extraordinary talents. As a young man he continues the struggle against the Saracens and frees his imprisoned father. He returns home to marry a beautiful princess. Arestes, in the Cypriot oral traditional, resembles Herakles and his heroic deeds, such as killing a poison snake in his own cradle and effortlessly moving boulders. This mixture of historical reality and legend contributes to the special appeal of this exciting tale. (8+)

Other Languages

160
Chrysantes, Kypros
Triantaphyllena (Proper name)
With illus.
Leukosia: Epiphaniu, 1993. 60pp
Modern fairy tale/Greece - Father/Daughter - Selflessness

In this modern fairy tale a poor father goes out into the world to seek his fortune because the poverty at home is unbearable. All but one of this daughters wish for materialistic presents upon his return; Triuantaphyllenia wants only roses. These roses, which the father forgets in the end, bring calamity to him and his daughter. After a wide range of adventures she is rewarded for her purity and selflessness by marriage to a blond prince. The critical adult reader will recognize the pedagogic intentions of the author. The young reader, however, will be more captivated by the numerous exciting adventures of these fairy tale figures. (5+)

Greece

161
Alexandrake, Argyro (text)
Solu, Tete (illus.)
Oi thesauroi tes chrysopeges (The Treasures of Chrysopege)
Athens: Psychogios, 1993. 130pp
(Pankosmia neanike bibliotheke)
no ISBN
Greece/School holiday - Adventure - Diary

This children's novel is written as a diary. In Summer 1990 Katia decides to keep a diary during her summer holidays to help her grandmother pass the time during the winter. Katia and her parents take a ship to Chrysopege, where they spend an exciting summer. They experience many adventures, including the discovery of valuable archeological treasures in a cave. The novel's particular charm lies in the childlike simplicity of Katia's commentary on the adult world, which is bound to bring a smile. (10+)

162
Chatzeanagnostu, Takes (text)
Stravropulos, Stathes (illus.)
E phloga tes Niotes
(The Flame of Youth)
Athens: Ankyra, 1992. 226pp
(logotechnike bibliotheke)
no ISBN
Greece/Persian Wars - Soldier - Patriotism

A masterful novel set in the years of the Persian Wars. Sikinos, a simple soldier, experiences many battles, is taken prisoner, becomes a slave, is whipped, escapes and struggles for survival. He finally succeeds in returning to Athens and enters the service of Themistokles. He takes part in the Battle of Marathon and the sea battle of Salamis. But when a disappointed Themistokles plans to join the Persians, Sikinos shows him in his own manner that Themistokles is about to lose his dignity. This brings him to his senses, allowing him to give his efforts for his homeland Greece again. The author is one of the leading writers of the post-war era. (12+)

163
Kliapha, Marula (text)
Spyropulos, Thanasses (illus.)
12+1 paramyhtia apo ten Thessalia (12+1 Tales from Thessalia)
Athens: Kastaniotes, 1992. 94pp
no ISBN
Fairy tale/Greek

This is a very special collection of Greek fairy tales. They are recorded here just as the storyteller told them, thus preserving the feeling of freshness, a quality which to be found increasingly seldom. But that is not all. The impressive illustrations are the inspirations of an autodidact who knows all the tricks of a puppet theater (karagoze).

Professor Merakles, an expert on fairy tales, has praised the work of Kliapha and Spyropulos and pointed out the general optimism which is sustained in the tales of Thessalia. (6+)

164

Manthopulos, Demetres (text)
Eleutheriu, Bangeles (illus.)
Meres tes Alkyones (Frosty Days)
Athens: Psychogios, 1993. 204pp
(Pankosmia neanike bibliotheke)
Handicap - Father/Son - Family life - Self-discovery

This novel deals with the problems of a youth who is handicapped, a topic which is seldom found in Greek literature. Bound to a wheelchair, Jiannis feels himself condemned to loneliness because he is different than the others. He lives entirely within the circle of his family and his burdened with the professional problems his father is having. After going to the country because the family doctor recommends a change of surroundings, Jiannis' whole life changes. Through his new friends and his father's professional success, he begins to have faith in life again. Returning home, he keeps up his contacts and decides he wants to make a success of his life.(12+) ✧

165

Stephanides, Menelaos (text)
Stephanides, Photine (illus.)
O mantoloes (Clairvoyant)
Athens: Sigma, n.d. [24pp]
Folktale/Greece - Clairvoyance

This over-sized picture book contains a Greek folktale for very young readers. Tzitzigas (which actually means cicada) is a lazy man who is always lucky. His wife renames him "Mantoloes," which means the clairvoyant. With this name and thanks to a series of funny coincidences, he becomes a government minister. This is the first book of a fairy tale series which will bring young readers much pleasure through the simple, clear and realistic language and the colorful illustrations. (6+)

The Netherlands (Dutch)

166

Biegel, Paul (text)
van der Veen, Fiel (illus.)
De soldatenmaker (The soldier-makers)
Haarlem: Uitgeverij Holland, 1994. 142pp
ISBN 900-251-0704-4
Sibling rivalry - Tin soldiers - Dream/Reality

The narrator of this novel tells about a period in his childhood when every night tin and lead soldiers meet in his garden to do battle with one another. Yet he is drawn into this mysterious warfare. He is expected to melt down the wounded soldiers and make new, battle-ready ones. But he doesn't know what side to take and, above all, whether he isn't just dreaming it all; he repeatedly finds signs that this other world realy exists. Even in the end, the reader is also left with unanswered question in this gripping adventure set somewhere between reality and fantasy (10+)

☺ ***Special Mention***

167

Hazelhoff, Veronica (text)
van Poppel, Peter (illus.)
Veren (Feathers)
Amsterdam: Querido, 1994. 73pp
ISBN 90-214-6548-5
Sister/Twin - Sibling rivalry - Friendship - Loneliness

Vacation with the parents at the seashore. Nini is bored because the only child to be seen for miles around is her twin sister Maya. And she is so different from everyone else, difficult and withdrawn. When they meet Nessa, Nini wants nothing more than to have her as a friend. But Nessa feels more drawn to Maya. They seem to understand each other without many words, and Maya begins to open up a little. Feeling left out and lonely, Nini even finds herself thinking how useful it would be if Maya would just disappear. But in the end both of the twins recognize that they belong together and need each other. This complicated story of sibling rivalry and growing up is told in a gentle sensitive narrative. (12+)

168
Provoost, Anne
Vallen (Falling)
Baarn: Houtekiet, 1994. 264pp
ISBN 90-5240-2278-7
Grandfather/Grandson - Death - Second World War/Past/Present - Scapegoat
Fascism and racism in history and today are the main elements of this young adult novel. When his grandfather dies and it becomes known that he had betrayed Jews in hiding during World War Two, Lucas discovers that the past can catch up with you. He is told that he has many of his grandfather's traits. When he rescues his girlfriend from a burning car, no one will believe that it had been an accident. People suggest that he has a violent character.(14+)

169
Tellegen, Toon (text)
Berner, Rotraut Susanne (illus.)
Mijn vader (My father)
Amsterdam: Querido, 1994. 86pp
ISBN 90-214-8371-8
(Dt. Ausg.: Josefs Vater. Übers. v. Mirjam Pressler. München: Hanser, 1994. 86 S. ISBN 3-446-17794-9)
Everyday life
One day a dot rolls into Josef's life, gets bigger and bigger and soon has arms and legs and a head. "I am your father," he says. And soon Josef knows that this father is someone very special. It is not just because he is taller than all other people, he can simply do anything: he can help Josef out when he is doing mental arithmetic, help him do acrobatic tricks at the gym, or even chase a scoundrel out of is bedroom. He is always there. He can be funny or sometimes just plain normal. When he finally disappears, Josef is sure that his father will return. After all, he can do thousands of things. A funny story of everyday life in an unusual family, told from a child's perspective. (8+)✧

Iran

170
Mohammadi, Mohammed (text)
Iravani, Sara (illus.)
Afsaneye Derakht-e-Khorma va Bozi (The tale of the date palm and the goat)
Mashad: Astane Ghods, 1994. 16pp
no ISBN
Folktale/Iran - Date palm - Goat - Rivalry
This tale is one of the most ancient stories found in Persia´s ancient Pahlavi language. A datepalm and a goat each compete verbally with the other to prove the superiority of his own abilities and usefulness. In the end the goat is considered the winner because he is able to move about, while the datepalm is bound to one place. The writer has taken the tale from an ancient manuscript which also appears in the background of each illustration of the book. He retells the Farsi version of the manuscript in a finely-tuned poetic prose. The illustrator enriched the text by incorporating significant elements of the story, key traditional colors and ancient motifs such as the symbol of the goat's horns in the illustrations, allowing the reader to become acquainted with ancient Iranian culture. (Special Prize and Third Prize, Tehran International Biennale of Illustrators (TIBI), 1993). (4-8) ✧

ABC books from around the world

This selection of newer ABC books is just a foretaste of a major exhibition being shown this summer at the International Youth Library in Munich. The exhibition documents the great variety of ways in which illustrators and authors have chosen to "play" with letters, with the alphabet of their own culture.

171
Bengtsson, Rod (text)
Korotyńska, Magda (illus.)
Simsalabims Stockholms ABC
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 1994. [64pp]
ISBN 91-638-3101-5
ABC/Swedish
To the 28 letters of the Swedish alphabet are added well known and less known views of Stockholm. These somewhat sterile pictures are enlivened by all kinds of animals, usually not to be found running around in a town in public.

172
Bofinger, Manfred (text)
Das Gänsehautbuch. Ein ABC des Grauens für tapfere Kinder und Eltern
(The goose-bump book. A gruesom ABC for brave children and parents)
Frankfurt: Eichborn, 1994. 64pp
ISBN 3-8218-3622-9
ABC/German
Horror just oozes out of the pages as the reader is confronted with creatures such as "apple maggots" and "tick legs". This very different kind of play-and-learn book is set in verses.

173
Brunhoff, Jean de (illus.)
Babars ABC (Babar's ABC)
München: Hanser, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 3-446-17977-1
ABC/German
The original French edition already appeared 1939. Now, for the first time, together with the beloved Babar, also German children can look out for letters and words in German, French and English.

174
Chester, Jonathan (text/photos)
A is for Antarctica
Sydney: Margaret Hamilton, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 0-947241-50-7
ABC/English
Excellent color photographs of all aspects of human life and animal life in this remote part of the world are presented with informative captions as an informative information book for the primary school.

175
Ghelmez, Petre (text)
Băiaş, Silviu (illus.)
Alfabetul vesel (The happy alphabet)
Bucureşti: Creangă, 1991. 64pp
ISBN 973-25-0048-4
ABC/Romanian
The individual letters of the alphabet described in poems. The majority of the pen-and-ink illustrations are rendered in four-color printing and show an exuberant phantasy and biting humor.

176
Kazloŭ, Mikola (illus.)
Azbuka - vjasëly vulej: Veršy (The ABC - a merry beehive: verses)
Minsk: Mastackaja litaratura, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 5-340-01447-9
ABC/Belorussian
This Belorussian ABC with colorful, highly original illustrations makes frequent reference to language, rules of phonetics and pronunciation in witty verses. The differences between Russian and Ukrainian are given particular attention. (4+)

177
Kamrat, L.P. et.al. (eds.)
Burlikova, Viktorija (illus.)
Vesëlaja azbuka (Merry ABC)
Moskva: VIP 1993. [16pp]
ISBN 5-86473-001-7
ABC/Russian
In this ABC the letters of the alphabet are presented for the most part in the form of verse about animals. (4+)

178
Koechlin, Lionel (text/illus.)
Les vacances de l'alphabet (The vacation alphabet)
n.p.: Manago, 1994. [28pp]
ISBN 2-7404-0357-7
ABC/French
Large and small letters that resemble stick-people take up a sport or hobby which begins with a particular letter. Can you guess what they are doing?

179
Krüss, James (text)
Ibelshäuser, Hans (illus.)
Vom Apfelbaum bis Zirkuszelt: ein buntes ABC der Welt (From apple tree to circus tent: a colorful ABC of the world)
Mannheim, Leipzig: Dudenverlag, 1994. 102pp
ISBN 3-411-05331-3
ABC/German
James Krüss gives a brilliant performance of his talent for rhyme in these witty and imaginative poems and two-liners for each letter; in this way the letters don't just fill up the book, but also generate language.

180
Meinderts, Koos (text)
Olie Bol van Krentenkoek las een prachtig prentenboek.
With illus.
Amsterdam: Ploegsma, [1991]. [32pp]
ISBN 90-216-1333-6
ABC/Dutch

181
Mullins, Patricia (text/illus.)
V for Vanishing. An Alphabet of Endangered Animals.
Sydney: Margaret Hamilton, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 0-947241-43-4
ABC/English
These stunning collage illustrations of 25 endangered species are done completely in collage with a variety of tissue papers and Ostrich feathers. The common name, species name and natural habitat is given, along with an appeal for international cooperation in preserving all endangered species.

182
Múrias, Augusto (text)
Lenertz, Romain (illus.)
Rua do Abecedário / Rue de l'Abécédaire (Alphabet Street)
Transl. and adapted into the French by Pierre Goffin und Claude Frisoni
Porto: ASA, 1993; Luxemburg: Editions St.-Paul, 1993. [52pp]
ISBN 972-41-1223-3; ISBN 2-87963-178-5
ABC/Portuguese/French
On Alphabet Street the letters A through Z live all together in a row of houses. Based

on their specific shapes and alleged characteristics, the illustrator has created original "beings" which he weaves curious anecdotes around. (8+)

183
Musa, Hassan (text/illus.)
Mon premier dictionnaire français-Anglais tout en arabe
(My first French-English dictionary all in Arabic)
n.p.: Grandir, 1994. [52pp]
ISBN 2-84166-002-8
ABC/French/English/Arabic
This multi-lingual ABC of animals employs the beauty of the Arabic calligraphy for its striking black-and-white illustrations.

184
Onyefulu, Ifeoma (text/illus.)
A is for Africa.
New York: Cobblehill/Dutton, 1993. [28pp]
(Orig.Publ.London: Frances Lincoln, 1993)
ISBN 0-525-65147-0
ABC/English
A member of the Igbo tribe who grew up in eastern Nigeria, the author trained as a photographer in London and returned there to do this book for her young son, in which contemporary life in an African village is depicted in color photographs and short informative texts.

185
Pauls, Josef (text)
Bohm, Eleonore (text)
Als die winzige Wühlmaus Wanda... 26 fabelhafte ABC-Geschichten
(When wee mouse Wanda ... 26 fabulous ABC stories)
Weinheim: Anrich, 1995.
ISBN 3-89104-989-8
ABC/German
Each of 24 letters are depicted in short texts with nonsense texts and corresponding full-page illustrations.

186
Rubio, Antonio (text)
Núñez, Pablo (illus.)
El murciélago Aurelio (Aurelio the bat)
Madrid: SM, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 84-348-4393-5
ABC/Spanish
This colorfully illustrated book for beginning readers deals in a playful manner with the five vowels. Rhymes, plays on words, and elements of onomatopoeia make reading aloud fun. And if one takes a good look, one can guess how the bat ("Murciélago) Aurelio got into the story. (6+)

187
Sabuda, Robert
Lettres de Noël. Un abécédaire de Noël en 3 dimensions.
(Orig. Engl.: The Christmas ABC)
n.P. Editions du Seuil, 1994. [12pp]
ISBN 2-02-022527-1
ABC/French
This delightful pop-up book contains all sorts of Christmas surprises folded up in cards. They are silhouette cutouts which match the letter on the cover of the respective cards.

188
Snow, Alan (text/illus.)
The Monster Book of ABC Sounds
New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1991. [32pp]
(Orig. Publ. St. Albans: David Bennett, 1991)
ISBN 0-8037-0935-8
ABC/English
Watercolor illustrations depict a hide-and-seek game between a family of mice and various monsters. Words beginning with each letter of the alphabet are repeated within each picture's frame as well as in verbal outbursts and sounds in each scene.

ABC books from around the world

189
Teren, Viktor V. (text)
Popov, Jevhen (illus.)
Ptašyna abetka: Miniatjuri (The ABC of birds: miniatures)
Kyïv: Veselka 1993. 38pp
ISBN 5-301-01171-5
ABC/Ukrainian

In this ABC with its sometimes very funny illustrations in the tradition of Ukrainian folk art, the letters of the Ukrainian alphabet are presented in connection with bird names. The accompanying text introduces the reader to interesting facts about the various bird species. (5+)

190
Viorst, Judith (text)
Hull, Richard (illus.)
The Alphabet from Z to A (With Much Confusion on the Way)
New York: Atheneum, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 0-689-31768-9
ABC/English

The English-language is known around the world as a pitfall of exceptions to the rules. In particular this book plays with the homonyms and inconsistent rules of pronunciation present in each letter in a rhyming text. Cleverly composed and highly detailed water color illustrations reinforce and supplement the text with a playful visual survey of basic English vocabulary.

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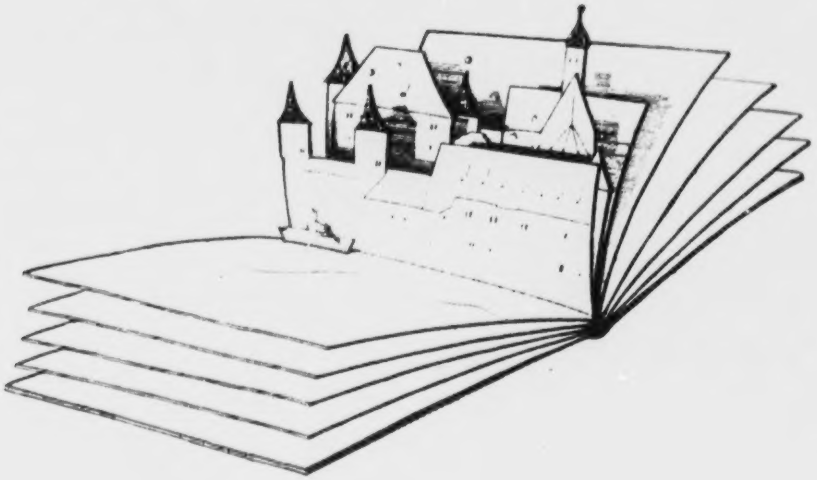
The International Youth Library



is the largest library for international children's and youth literature in the world. Since its founding by Jella Lepman in 1948 it has been continuously expanded to an internationally recognized center for the world's children's and youth literature.

Jella Lepman began her work immediately after the end of World War II with an international exhibition of children's and youth literature in Munich. She saw this as an opportunity to find new hope and values after the years of Nazi terror and the horrors of war and to awaken a new understanding for other peoples and nations. She directed her attention to both children **and** adults. She sought to establish a discourse **about** children's literature and offered at the same time the children **themselves** a selection of books. Still today these are the two guiding ideas of the work at the International Youth Library.

Since 1983 the International Youth Library has been housed in Blutenburg Castle in the Obermenzing quarter of Munich. The historical building complex dating from the 15th century offers a place to work and study for 32 staff members (full- and part-time) and adult and young users in many different tongues. The underground cellar of the castle courtyard provides an extensive storage area for the book collection.

With the arrival of the International Youth Library, Blutenburg Castle became a "Book Castle", as symbolized by the Leipzig graphic artist Egbert Herfurth.

The registered organization "Internationale Jugendbibliothek e.V." and its Board of Directors bears the primary responsibility for the library. It is financed by Germany's Federal Ministry for Women and Youth, the Bavarian State Ministry for Instruction, Culture, Science and the Arts, and by the Bavarian Capital City of Munich.

In addition, the library is supported by donations from private persons, institutions and publishers. The International Youth Library fulfills the tasks set out in its statutes by collecting, cataloging and promoting knowledge of national and international children's and youth literature and by actively promoting cultural youth work and intercultural understanding.

The Collection

The heart of the International Youth Library is a collection of about 460,000 books in more than 100 languages. This gradually expanding collection was supplemented in 1969 by the books of the "Bureau International d'Education" of the Geneva League of Nation, a library established in 1928 to maintain a model collection of children's and youth literature. Special mention should also be made of the Schultz Collection of numerous historical editions especially in the area of adventure literature and fairy tales.

The Study Library

The reference library offers subject specialists in Germany and abroad access to 23,000 volumes of secondary literature, including 20 national bibliographies and nearly 300 subscriptions to professional periodicals from around the world. The documentation section consisting of 40,000 published and unpublished articles and reports, newspaper clippings on nearly 4200 children's books authors and 1350 illustrators, limited editions, and other grey literature is available to users along with collections of posters, calendars, manuscripts, autograms, original illustrations and children's art work.

The Children's Lending Library

This department offers about 20,000 volumes in 15 foreign languages for public lending. It seeks to attract readers with a wide variety of programs with

regular activities such as story hours, language courses in English, French and Italian, art courses, and a children's choir as well as

scheduled events such as author readings, game days, puppet theater, film showings, literary quizzes, stamp exchange days etc.

The Activities

1. Exhibitions

In the rooms at Blutenburg Castle the library mounts many exhibitions on a wide range of themes: original works of illustrators, representative surveys of the children's literature of different countries or cultures, and current or historical aspects of children's and youth literature. All exhibitions are designed both for adults **and** children, and often a special program of activities for school classes is offered.

2. Book Workshop

Since 1994 the International Youth Library has developed a program for classes from all types of school called the "Book Workshop". The painting studio and the printer's shop are used to develop model projects for the promotion of literature and reading.

3. Seminars and Symposia

The International Youth Library maintains close contact with subject specialists involved with literature and reading promotion (educators, teachers, publishers and editors, librarians and scholars) around the world. In order to give these specialists the opportunity to meet and exchange their expertise, the library conducts seminars, symposia and conferences in cooperation with other institutions.

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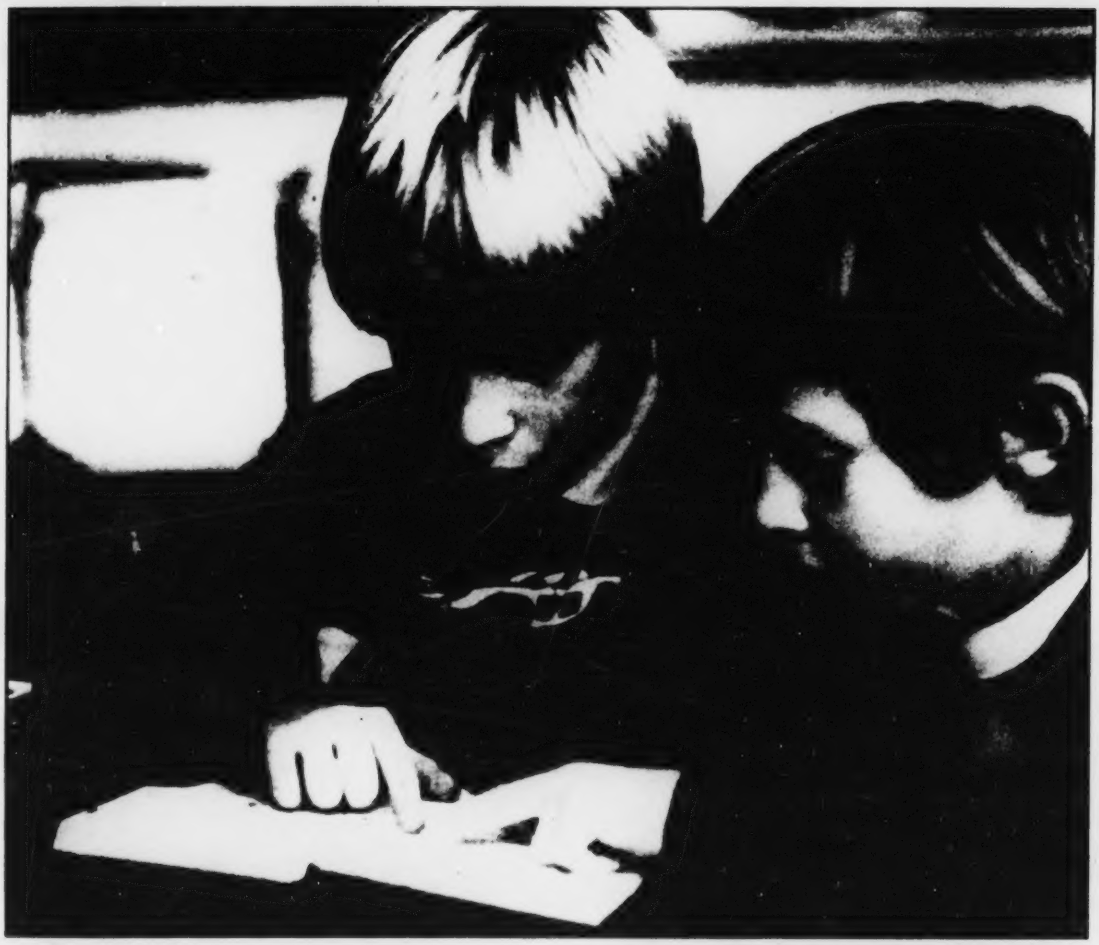

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

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München
International Youth Library

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Impressum

The White Ravens 1996
A Selection of International
Children's and Youth Literature

Editor: Dr. Barbara Scharioth

Selection:

East Asian Languages
Fumiko Ganzenmüller (Japanese)
Pon-to Peng (Chinese)

English
Martha Baker and
Margaret Stokes

German
Christa Stegemann

Romance Languages
Gerlinde Burger (Romanian)
Lene Eubel-Plag (French)
Jochen Weber and
Carmen Volpe (Italian)
Jochen Weber (Catalan,
Portuguese, Spanish)

Scandinavian Languages
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Slavic and Baltic Languages
Werner Küffner

Other Languages
Toin Duijx (Dutch, Flemish, Frisian)
Theodora Arampatzi (Greek)
Margaret Stokes (Irish[Gaelic])

Layout: Edda Greif
Cover photo: Hans Gärtner
Illustration: H. Heine
© Middelhauve Verlag
Typesetting: Thomas Pleiner
Printing: Danuvia Druckhaus

This publication is available from:
International Youth Library
Schloss Blutenburg
D-81247 München
Germany
Tel.: +49-89/891211-0
Fax: +49-89/8117553

INTERNATIONALE JUGENDBIBLIOTHEK München
International Youth Library

The White Ravens 1996

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

Internationale Jugendbibliothek
München

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Preface

The »White Ravens« catalog has become a solid tradition over the years. Throughout each year the language specialists at the International Youth Library pick out new in-coming books which they consider especially noteworthy: the white ravens among the black ravens.

This publication appears each year in time for the Children's Book Fair in Bologna, where it is presented along with the books themselves to an international body of subject specialists. This »premium label« is given above all to books of international interest which on account of their universal theme and/or their exceptional and often innovative artistic and literary style and design deserve a wider reception.

Included among this selection are also ***»special mentions«*** *☺ which the library's* Lektoren *wish to draw particular attention to, so they get the widest possible recognition.*

This year's selection contains nearly 250 titles in 27 languages from 43 countries. It certainly makes no claim to being exhaustive. The titles are drawn from the books which the IYL received as review or donation copies in 1995 from publishers around the world. Unfortunately, not all publishing houses which consistently and generously supply the IYL with their books can be featured here each year. Still, we want to cordially thank each and every one of them for their shipments of books and assure them that their books will be included in our depository collection.

For the second time in this year's publication two additional labels have been assigned to the books. The **symbol** ✧ *marks those books whose content is found to contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples. In this way we remind ourselves and our readers of the working maxim which the library's founder, Jella Lepman, gave the library and which in these times is still of utmost concern.*

A second **symbol** ☼ *is assigned to books whose text was found to be easy to understand, i.e. easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics. Hence these books are well-suited to foreign-language readers and for inclusion in foreign language collections of public libraries. A small section of this catalog, in addition, is dedicated to a theme which the International Youth Library will be exhibiting later this year.*

Last but not least, ***we renew our request to all publishers****: Please continue to send us your new titles. We aspire to fulfill the expectation that the International Youth Library in Munich be the home of the worldwide most comprehensive collection of international literature for children and young people.*

Dr. Barbara Scharioth
Munich, March 1996

East Asian Languages

Japan

1
Harada, Takehide (text/illus.)
Furanchesuko
(Francis of Assisi)
Tokyo: Suemori Books, 1992. [40pp]
ISBN 4-915777-04-9
Francis of Assisi - Christianity

The most important stations in the life of Saint Francis of Assisi, who selflessly searched for his own path to God, are presented in a poem in this brief book. The concentrated, simple illustrations complement the plain text, and together they form a unity which radiates a lyrical-meditative atmosphere. (10+)

2
Itō, Hiroshi (text/illus.)
Tonkachibōya
(The Boy with the Hammer)
Tokyo: Crayonhouse, 1994. [24 pp]
ISBN 4-906379-48-6
Sound - Imagination - Visualization

While his father is repairing the dog house a young boy enjoys listening to the sound of the hammer while his eyes are closed. Suddenly he is overcome by the idea that a stranger has come from far away who could perform something funny or thrilling. After this surprising discovery, he tries to use the hammer himself - against the ground, a tree trunk, a metal guard rail, water, etc. The feelings and scenes which the boy associates with each individual tone are visualized in abstract pictures.
This is a very original, playful picture book. (4+)

3
Kako, Satoshi (text/illus.)
Ningen
(Human Beings)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1995. 52pp
ISBN 4-8340-1278-6
Origins of life - History of Mankind

»Man is a living creature and living creatures have their source in the universe.« Starting from this premise the author has created a highly vivid picture book about mankind and man's place in the universe. Beginning with the Big Bang he shows the origins and development of humans, the anatomy and the functions of individual organs as well as cultural and social behavior.
He makes very clever use of the picture book format: texts and illustrations complement each other and convey in an easily understandable manner scientifically grounded information about mankind. (9+)

4
Kanouchi, Takuya (photos)
Yabuuchi, Masayuki (illus.)
Nakano, Masataka (Cover and layout)
Otoshitanowa dare?
(Who Dropped It?)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1994. 40pp
ISBN 4-8340-1260-3
Bird feathers

Using a bird feather which a boy finds in the woods children are told how they can collect and identify such feathers themselves. The instructions are embedded in a suspenseful story. Clear and aesthetic photographs give an impressive view of landscape, animals and feathers. This work was designed by a team of excellent specialists for nature and animal books and stands out from the usual information book due to its tasteful and playful manner. (7+)
15th Yoshimura Akashiko Award for Science Books for Children, 1995

5
Kimura, Yūichi (text)
Abe, Hiroshi (illus.)
Arashi no yoruni
(On a Stormy Night)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1994. [48pp]
(Ritoru 2)
ISBN 4-06-252852-5
Sympathy - Friendship - Antagonism

Can natural enemies become friends if they find each other likeable. Can opposites be overcome? These are the questions posed by this bitter-sweet comedy about a goat and a wolf who take refuge in the same hut during a storm night. Without knowing who the other really is, because they can see nothing in the darkness, they arrange to meet again. What will happen then?

(26th Kodansha Cultural Prize in Publishing for Picture Books, 1995)
(42nd Sankei Cultural Prize for Children's Books & Publications - JR Prize, 1995)

6
Kokaze, Sachi (text)
Ono, Kaoru (illus.)
Yubinukikōji no himitsu
(The Secret of Thimble Lane)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1994. 448pp
ISBN 4-8340-0176-8
Happiness - Philosophy of life - Handicraft
When the button which his mother bought from a peddlar is sewn on his coat, an eleven-year-old boy is magically transported to a world where the present and the past meet and he learns the many life-stories of the residents of Thimble Lane. This is a fascinating tale of fantasy about the secret of the five bottoms from the hoof of the unicorn. The author incorporates in it her sense of value about the things which a person can create with an upright dedication and patience thanks to his skills as a craftsman. (11+)
32rd Noma Award for Juvenile Literature - Prize for New Authors, 1994

7
Miyazawa, Kenji (text)
Kuroi, Ken (illus.)
Kumo no shingō. Īhatobu shigashû
(The Signal of the Clouds. Stories and Pictures from »Īhatobu«)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1995. 48pp
ISBN 4-03-016230-4
Universe - Nature - Buddhism - Landscape/ Northern Japan - Imagination - Poetry
»Īhatobu« is a fictitious place in the soul of this poet, a practicing Buddhist and agricultural expert, who is deeply rooted in his home region, the Iwate prefect in northern Japan. The 21 poems in which he describes the heavens, clouds, mountains, snow, etc. of his home, are distinguished by an singular language. By employing terms from Buddhism and natural science, he creates an imaginary, unique lyrical world and captivates the reader. The spacious lyrical images open up the universal world of poetry. (14+)

8
Miyazawa, Kenji (text)
Ise, Hideko (illus.)
Suisenzuki no yokka
(The Fourth Day of the Month of the Narcissus)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1995. 36pp
(Nihon no dôwa meisakusen)
ISBN 4-03-963440-3
Snow - Spirits
In the mountains of northern Japan the „4th day of the month of narcissus“ is the day that the evil old snow woman lets her apprentices, snow boys and snow wolves have a fling. A child hurries home through the forest. The blue skies change and the voice of the snow woman can be detected in the approaching snow storm...
The author develops this life-threatening natural phenomenon into a fairy-tale like story while the illustrator Hideko Ise gives it an artist's interpretation. She transforms the appearance of snow into the wild activities of snow spirits in cold and ice. (10+)

9
Mizuki, Shigeru (text/illus.)
Emaki ehon. Yōkai no mori
(Emaki Picture Book. The Forest of Demons, Spirits and Ghosts)
Tokyo: Kogumasha, 1995.
ISBN 4-7721-0129-2
Demons - Spirits - Ghosts - Oral tradition/Japan - Folk beliefs/Japan
While making an excursion a young boy and girl enter the forest kingdom of demons and spirits. In a very entertaining manner his 280cm long fold-out book presents their helter-skelter encounters with 170 figures and beings who have their origins in Japanese folk beliefs and Buddhist beliefs of the soul and the afterlife, or were created by the author himself. The ethnological background of these figures iscommented upon in a supplemental booklet. (5+) ◆

10
Mori, Eto (text)
Uchū no minashigo
(The Orphans of the Universe)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1994. 206pp
ISBN 4-06-207334-X
Willpower - Self-assertion - Individuality - Friendship

Fourteen-year-old Yōko and her younger brother hate to be bored and are always thinking up new adventurous games. So they come up with the idea to climb up on the rooftop secretly one night. For them and their two classmates who join them this represents a challenge to break out of their own dissatisfaction. Then as all four of them are sitting on the roof, they realize that they have to shine through their own power like the stars above, which do not let themselves be gobbled up by the darkness of the universe. The author makes the case for will-power and individuality as a way for young people to find their path in life. But they need friends as a counterweight. (12+)

33rd Noma Award for Juvenile Literature
Prize for New Authors, 1995

11
Nashiki, Kaho
Nishi no majo ga shinda
(The Witch in the West is Dead)
Tokyo: Nire shuppan, 1994. 205pp
ISBN 4-931266-16-9
Willpower - Autonomy - Grandmother/Granddaughter - Love - Witch - School

Thirteen-year-old Mai is having so much trouble at school that she finally refuses to go anymore. As a result, her parents send her to stay with her grandmother, who lives alone in the country. She is a silent, strong-minded person for whom Mai has always had great respect. The grandmother gives Mai »witch lessons« in self-discipline. The simple life in natural surroundings and her grandmother's understanding love help this sensitive girl to achieve stability and autonomy. This is a stirring story, which addresses the current problem of pupils wanting to cop out of school. (12+)

☺ Special Mention

12
Nasu, Masamoto (text)
Nishimura, Shigeo (illus.)
E de yomu Hiroshima no gembaku
(The Atomic Bomb of Hiroshima in Pictures)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1995. 84pp
ISBN 4-8340-1265-4
Hiroshima - Atomic bomb - World War 2 - Nuclear Physics - Peace movement

The title tells the reader straight away that this is no easy reading. But whoever opens up this over-sized, oblong picture book will be overwhelmed by the splendid interaction between text and illustration and by their expressiveness. The reader will be filled with a desire to learn more about this event. The text provides a wealth of information about the Second World War, the atomic bomb, radiation damage, the world-wide escalation of nuclear armaments after Hiroshima, current issues about atomic energy and about the anti-nuclear energy and peace movements. This broad and diverse subject matter is given meticulous treatment, interspersed with drawings, tables and graphic art work to make it easily understandable by anyone. Parallel to the very well-structured text segments scenes of life in the old castle town of Hiroshima before, during and after the bomb was dropped, are depicted in full-page illustrations. In all these pictures floats the soul of a victim of the atomic bomb, accompaning the reader along the »stations of this ordeal.«

With their diversity and simplicity the illustrations touch the emotions through their diversity and simplicity, allowing each reader a very personal experience. This informative book includes only drawing, setting it apart from most other documentary works based on photographs.
(9+) ✧

13
Ochi, Noriko (text)
Masai, Kei (illus.)
Terifuriyama no somemonoya
(The Dyer of Terifuri Mountain)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1995. 138pp
(Wandârando 12)
ISBN 4-03-540120-X
Colors - Plants - Nature - Japan/Fairy Tale

During an artistic crisis a young man takes refuge in the mountains in order to begin anew his work, colors and weaving. His efforts to win the beautiful colors of nature from plant sources are intensified when he makes the acquaintance of a young girl and her father, the »dyer of Terifuri Mountain«, who has a wonderous way of performing his craft. Through this encounter and by experiencing a festival of the mountain inhabitants in moonlight he develops his very own art of coloring which makes him famous. Finally he himself becomes known as the »dyer of Terifuri Mountain.« This fictitious fairy tale is marked by a sensibility to nature, the Japanese aesthetic, and illustrated with graceful, simple pictures. (10+) ◇

14
Ōta, Daihachi (text/illus.)
Būtan
(Butan, the Pig)
Tokyo: Kogumasha, 1995. 34pp
ISBN 4-7721-0128-4
Friendship - Greed - Pig - Exploitation

Colorful, earthy pictures tell about Ben and his unusually large pig, Butan. Every-one wants to see it - people from the village, from the city, from the newspaper, from television. It is the main attraction of a show in the city. For the closing celebration, Butan is to be slaughtered and Ben is offered a considerable sum of money for him. Completely enraged , Ben returns home, and from then on Butan helps out in the fields and entertains the children. Behind this naive story there is a bitter truth to be found about exploitation. (4+)

15
Ozawa, Toshio (re-teller)
Akaba, Suekichi (illus.)
Nihon no mukashibanashi. Zen 5 kan
(Japanese Folk Tales. Vols. 1-5)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1995. Each 368pp
ISBN 4-8340-1324/5/6/7/8
Folk tales/Japan - Ainu/Oral tradition - Folk tales/Okinawa

The 301 tales collected here by the leading folk-tale researcher in Japan, T. Ozawa, give a comprehensive picture of Japanese folk tale tradition. In order to give todays's children this rich store of tales in its original form, this edition has been edited with a view to the ethnographical background and literary style of oral folktales. Furthermore, the local dialects have been trans-formed into standard Japanese and the rhythm of speech adapted to enable smooth-flowing story-telling. The tales are grouped according to the four seasons and excellently illustrated with pictures by the Hans Christian Andersen prize-winner Suekichi Akaba. (4+) ◇ ○

16
Satō, Makiko (text)
Ozawa, Masumi (illus.)
Watashi no himitsu no hanazono
(My Secret Garden)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1994. 270pp
(Kaiseisha korekushon)
ISBN 4-03-744080-6
Illness/Everyday life - Nature - Garden

Written in a very concise, atmospherically dense manner, this autobiographical story describes in 21 episodes the everyday life and psyche of an 8-year-old girl who suffers from a serious case of asthma. Just as in her favorite book »The Secret Garden« by Burnett, the garden plays a central role in the life of this protagonist. It represents happiness and life even though her experiences of nature summon up conflicting feelings due to her illness. (12+)

17
Segi, Shinichi (text)
Kayama, Matazō (ed.)
Kokoro ni nokoru Meigabijutsukan. Zen 5kan.
(The Gallery of Famous Pictures. Vols. 1-5)
Tokyo: Kin no hoshisha, 1995. Each 48pp
ISBN 4-323-02051/52/53/54/55-X
Painting - Children - Animal - Nature - Love - Pleasure -Mourning - Imagination

These five volumes contain all together 216 famous paintings from artists all over the world. The volumes are dedicated to the following themes which children are most concerned with: 1: Father, mother and child; 2: The world of animals; 3: Beauty and grace in nature; 4: Love, joy and mourning; 5: Wonderous world of dreams. This makes it easier for children to enter into the world of artistic painting. Short commentaries describe the artists, their works and the historical context. In volumes two and three the differences between the painting techniques and styles in European and Japanese art are given special emphasis. (11+) ✧

18
Tang, Yaming (text)
Yu, Dawu (illus.)
Saiyūki
(The Journey to the West)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1994. 69pp
ISBN 4-06-132207-9
China - Buddhism - Ape - Demons - Adventure

The fantasy- comedy »Hsi-yu chi«, written in 1592 and recounting the travels of the monk Xuanzang to India in the 7th century, has been retold in this impressive artistic picture book. The dynamic protagonist of this classic Chinese work is the ape-king, Sun Wukong, who was born from a stone. Endowed with supernatural powers, he even pushes his way into heaven where he is turned into a stone by Buddha. After 500 years he is freed by another monk whom he accompanies and helps to fight against demons who hinder believers making their pilgramage. This is a selection of the most popular episodes from the complete work consisting of 100 chapters, each accompanied by a short preface. (6+) ✧ ☼

42nd Sankei Cultural Award for Children's Books & Publications - JR Prize, 1995

19
Yosano, Akiko (text)
Takabe, Seiichi (illus.)
Kingyo no otsukai
(The Gold Fish Couriers)
Tokyo: Kakusha, 1994. [24pp]
ISBN 4-906268-61-7
Goldfish - Help - Humor

Three brothers and sisters of a Tokyo family send their gold fish as couriers to another quarter of town. The fish are able to walk and speak like people, but possess all the characteristics of a fish. Thus they encounter all kinds of difficulties along the way, but are repeatedly assisted by friendly people. The notable illustrations by Seiichi Takabe for this naive-absurd story for children by the well-known poet Akiko Yosano (1878-1942) contain a certain surreal humor in a commercial art style that was common in Japan at the beginning of this century. (5+) ✧ ☼

East Asian Languages

Republic of China (Taiwan)

☺ Special Mention

20
Ceng, Yangqing (text)
Liu, Zonghui (illus.)
Yuanyuan de facai meng
(Yuanyuan's Dream of Getting Rich)
Taibei: Xinyi Jijin, 1994. [40pp]
ISBN 957-642-202-7
Wealth - Blindness - Friendship - Betrayal

Yuanyuan, the shepherd boy, dreams of becoming rich one day and marrying a princess. The enchanted chameleon in the old pagoda knows of his wish and shows him how he can make more from his money. He cheats his friends, the bird and the trees, and even gives his friend, the lily, to the princess to win her favor. But the princess spurns his advances. Blinded by his desire for wealth, he has thus lost everything. At last he awakens from his daydream. Marvellously delicate illustrations, which are easily accessible for the viewer, accompany this story and replicate the mood of each scene and its figures in subtle shadings of color. (7+)

21
Lin, Qingxuan (text)
Wu, Jianhua (illus.)
Wangzi he yizi
(The Prince and the Chairs)
Taibei: Xinyi Jijin, 1994. [28pp]
ISBN 957-642-207-8
Prince - Pride - Work

The spoiled prince never works, he won't even carry a chair into the garden when his fathers asks him to. He is much too high-born to lower himself in that way. But then he loses the kingdom and must learn to carry chairs and work hard. Tasteful illustrations transport the reader into an oriental fairy tale world. (5+)

22
Wang, Lan (text)
Zhang, Zheming (illus.)
Da hua mao
(The Large Multicolored Cat)
Taibei: Genhua, 1992. [32pp]
ISBN 4-8288-1342-X
Cat - Respect - Empathy

The large multicolored cat is very hungry. Setting out to find something to eat, she encounters first two goldfish swimming in a bowl. They lament that if she were to eat one of them, the other would be sad and lonely. The cat accepts this and leaves them alone. Suddenly a little bird falls at her feet, but the parents beg her to spare the life of their child. The same again happens with the mice. Each time there is a good reason for the cat to give up her catch. Will she ever be able to still her hunger? This colorful picture book intends to show that it always pays off to respect the life of others and find other alternatives. (3+)

Africa

Ghana

23
Abdallah, Mohammed ben
Ananse and the golden drum. A play for children
Accra: Woeli, 1994. 34pp
ISBN 99-6497-809-X
Folktale/Ghana - Greed
One of Ghana's leading playwrights, Abdallah uses here the well-known clever and crafty folktale figure Ananse to write a tale about greed and the consequences of trying too hard to get one's own way. (6+)

Namibia

24
Marais, Anna Louise (text)
Marais, Christine (illus.)
Etosha experience
Windhoek: Gamsberg Publishers, n.d.. 102pp
ISBN 0-86848-935-2
Namibia - Natural life - Animals
The animals living in the southern regions of African need not become familiar around the world only through folktales. This well-designed information book provides an artist's ink-and-watercolor renderings and informative texts about the habits and character traits of well over 100 animals found in this Namibian national park. A glossary, index and list of references make the book accessible for young adults. This is a useful addition to collections of African studies. (8+)

South Africa

25
Bransby, Lawrence
The Boy Who Counted to a Million
Cape Town: Human & Rousseau, 1995. 109pp
ISBN 0-7981-3452-6
Self-identity - Grandfather/Grandson - World War I/Memories - Racial violence
This story is set in modern day South Africa during the period of high racial turbulence, which also influence relations between the members of a white middle-class family. Matthew is a thoroughly normal boy who enjoys comics and war games, but his experiences of violence with their black neighbors and his great-grandfather's vivid, guiltily repressed memories as a warfront soldier help him see that there is no glamour in real fighting. Bransby develops this compassionate story of a boy's search for meaning in a well-developed plot. (12+)

☺ Special Mention

26
Deall, Alanna (text/illus.)
Kensani's Kite
Sandton: Mike Jacklin/Knowledge Unlimited, 1995. [26pp]
ISBN 1-86839-374-7
Old Man/Boy - Friendship - Kite
An old man sits under a tree carving animal figures, peaceful but lonely. Then a little boy suddenly comes out of nowhere, flying a plastic bag as a kite. The two of them make it into a real kite and spend a mutually enjoyable day together. The gentle, poetic narrative is accompanied by pen-and-watercolor drawings which capture the character of the protagonists, their feelings and their immediate surroundings. The book is designed in an very attractive style. (4+) ◇ ☺

27
King, Georgiana (text)
Eloff, Friedel (illus.)
Zolani Goes to Yeoville
Cape Town: Tafelberg, 1995. 48pp
ISBN 0-624-03394-5
Father/Son - Friendship
When Zolani recovers slowly from a debilitating bout of measles, his mother decides that a change of setting would help him and decides to invest all her savings - instead of buying a cow - in making a visit to the father who works in faraway Johannesburg. Their weeks long stay there as subletters in the home of a white family makes an interesting experience for the boy used to living in a remote rural district. The peaceable relations between Zolani's family and their temporary hosts is portrayed without any moralizing overtone, and the

everyday pleasures and misunderstandings make interesting reading. (10+) ✧ ☼

28
Wyk, Chris van (text)
Callinicos, Luli (text)
Oliver Tambo
Cape Town: Maskew Miller/Longman, 1994. 66pp (They Fought for Freedom)
ISBN 0-636-01984-5
Tambo, Oliver/Biography - African National Congress - South Africa/Politics
This series of biographies presents southern African leaders who have been struggling for freedom and justice in this century. Short readable chapters with fictionalized conversations and meetings make these books lively and inspiring. Illustrated with photos and supplemented with maps and an appendix of vocabulary, project activities and further reading, the series can also be used in classrooms. (10+)

Swaziland

29
Leggat, Gillian (text)
Heerden, Marjorie van (illus.)
The Car with Three Wheels
Manzini: Macmillan Boleswa Puublishers, 1995. [24pp]
ISBN 0-333-56004-3
Brother - Birthday present - Homemade toy
Musa wants to give his little brother a special birthday present, but he has no money. With considerable ingenuity - and some forbidden scavenging - he find enough scraps to make a red racing car. Not only does his brother find it the »best present in the world«, they both continue to collect odds-and-ends for future presents. Though this story is set in Africa, where pocket money may be scarcer than elsewhere, the idea that hand-made things are as valuable as store-bought ones, and a gift of the heart the dearest of all, is universal. The color or black-and-white full-page illustrations attractively capture the main events of this simple everyday story. (6+) ✧ ☼

Zimbabwe

30
Proctor, André (text)
Koch, Hannie (illus.)
The school we made
Harare: Baobab Books, 1992. [24pp]
ISBN 0-908311-36-2
School - Soccer - Everyday life/Village/Zimbabwe
The villagers first get support to build a real school building and then they are granted their request for an accredited teacher. But this strict, taciturn stranger has other ideas about classroom behavior, appearances and when it is appropriate to play soccer on the school's sport field. The efforts of the parents and the heart-felt enthusiasm of the pupils for their soccer team finally win him over and he becomes integrated into village life. The gently drawn pen- and-brush drawings on each page capture the main elements of this well-written entertaining tale. (6+) ☼

31
Kala, Violet
Waste Not Your Tears
Harare: Baobob Books, 1994. 73pp
(Turn about series)
ISBN 0-908311-64-9
Love - AIDS
A young woman thinks she has found the man of her dreams. After she moves into his quarters, his promises of marriage prove to be the false words of a lazy and self-centered man. When she discovers that he has infected her with AIDS, she must find the strength to live with this situation. This topic is not only of interest to Africans, but all over the world. (14+)

Asia and Oceania

Australia

32
Butler, Mark
Fred Hollows. Leaving the World a Better Place
Carlton: CIS/Cardigan Street Publishers,
1995. 44pp
(Makers and Shakers)
ISBN 1-875633-98-7
Hollows, Fred/Biography - Eye disease - Medical Care

New Zealand-born Hollows (1929-1993) is revered by thousands of people as a »larrikin saint.« He dedicated his life to bringing the highest quality medical care to the eyes of the poorest of the poor. The author describes Hollows beginnings and early »Wanderjahre« in New Zealand and Australia, before focusing on his professional life as an ophthalmologist. Explanations of medical treatment and the socio-political issues which effect medical care around the world are also featured here. The easy-to-read text is given an attractive layout with black-and-white photos and and documentary information. (10+) ☼

33
Clark, Margaret (text)
Guthridge, Bettina (illus.)
Wally the Whiz Kid
Ringwood: Puffin/Penguin Books
Australia, 1995. 99pp
(Mango Street Story)
ISBN 0-14-036271-1
School - Politicians - Adventure story

Wally knows a lot more than most kids his age, but he only gets in trouble when his best friend, Sean, dauntlessly sally into the state parliament house to get out of the rain. A case of mistaken identity, they are asked to give their opinions on major political matters - before running cameras! Sean, the narrator, tells of their misadventures with a jaunty commentary of the adult world that will surely entertain. (9+)

34
Cox, David
The Drover's Dog
Norwood: Omnibus Books/Ashton
Scholastic, 1995. [32pp]
ISBN 1-1862901-235-1
Man/Dog - Tricks - World travel - Affection

Joe is a simple man in the outback. His dog Sue has a gift for acrobatic tricks which she gladly does to please her master, earning his praise and attention. But once he becomes obsessed with travelling the world and earning money with her tricks, their old way of life changes for the worse. It takes the intervention of a kindly queen for Joe to realize how selfish he has been in denying Sue the very thing that made their relationship so special - true affection. Water-colored pen-and-ink sketches exuberantly convey a simple story about the needs of the heart that children - and hopefully adults - will appreciate. (5+) ☼

35
Dubosarsky, Ursula
The First Book of Samuel
Ringwood: Viking/Penguin, 1995. 158pp
ISBN 0-670-85572-3
Family - Father/Daughter - Grandfather/ Grandson - Conflict of Interest

The past history of a family can have an effect on the next generation, as in the case of 12-year-old Samuel where the relationships between his father, her mother, his father's first wife and children, and his dearly beloved grandfather form a core constellation that produces a turning point in his life and helps to establish his own identity. The author skillfully develops the events which lead up to a climactic »kidnapping« and reconciliation. The theme of family relationships is narrated here in a fascinating style with the voice of a concerned observer, giving the story a feeling of immediacy. (12+)

English Language

36
Steele, Mary
A bit of a hitch and other stories
Melbourne: Hyland House, 1995. 160pp
ISBN 1-875657-58-4
Short stories - Australia - Old Age - Pets - Imagination
These funny and fast-paced short stories revolve around episodes of everyday life in modern Australia, but could perhaps happen to anyone anywhere. There is, for example, a case of an accidental long distance call from Scotland, or an imaginary aunt invented and fully-blown to reality by the whole family, all for the sake of a school essay. In an appendix Steele describes where the inspiration for each story came from. This is entertaining and sometimes thought-provoking reading based on well-formed plots and characterizations. (10+)

India

37
Jafa, Manorama (text)
Harichandan, Deepak (illus.)
Gandhi. The Man of Peace
Delhi: Ratna Sagar, 1995. 95pp
ISBN 81-7070-194-5
Gandhi, Mahatma/Biography - Peace - War of Independence
A leading writer of children's books in India has carefully prepared this biography of India's and the world's most famous leader in a readable style, filling it with anecdotes and imagined scenes from Gandhi's life as a boy, a young lawyer in South Africa, and a political activist in the still British colony of India. Black-and-white sketches highlight important stations of his life.(10+) ✧ ☼

38
Srikumar, A.K.
Malana (Place name)
New Delhi: Children's Book Trust, 1994. 152pp
ISBN 81-7011-720-8
Mother/Son - Self-identity - Friendship - Family origins - Detective story
When his father dies, a English schoolboy discovers the secret of his mother's identity which his father had tried to hide from him. Determined to learn the mystery of his parent's relationship and find his mother, he travels with his butler and a school friend to the Himalayas. Their many adventures before finding the remote village of Malana, home of Jack's reclusive mother, make for a suspenseful story and a framework for getting to know one area of India. At last reunited with his mother, their future together or apart is left open. The problems and challenges of bi-cultural families makes up part of this interesting story. (12+) ✧

New Zealand

39
Boock, Paula
Home Run
Dunedin: Longacre, 1995. 115pp
ISBN 0-9583405-3-6
School - Outsider - Sport - Conformity
Byrony moves to Auckland and enters a new school. She is well-to-do, white, and clever in a school where many pupils are none of these. Tormented at first by her classmates, her efforts to win acceptance through conformity with their values results in a brush with the law. This is a thoughtful novel about two girls, united by their love for softball, who try to bridge class divisions through growing understanding and friendship. Boock is a prizewinning writer for young adults, and also for theater and television. She shows great insight into the problems of growing up in modern times, where individuals must struggle to chose the path that is right for themselves. (14+) ✧

Philippines

40
Kuhonta, Ma. Michelle (text)
Llana, Dindo A. (illus.)
Metro Manila: Cacho Publishing, 1995. [16pp]
(We Love the Earth Books/Mini Series)
ISBN 971-19-0168-4
Swimming
How Anna learns to swim at the seashore is told her in rhyming verse, illustrated in full-page richly-detailed spreads with elements of modern art and child-oriented humor. (3+) ☼

41
Ventura, Sylvia Mendez
José Rizal
Metro Manila: Tahanan Pacific, 1992. 32pp
(The Great Lives Series)
ISBN 971-630-000-X
Rizal, José/Biography - Philippines/War of Independence - Doctor/Biography
One of the Philippines's national heroes, José Rizal Mercado (1861-1896), a brilliant, promising young European-educated doctor came from a simple merchant family. Already as a young toddler it was clear that he was a gifted learner and when he was eleven years old his family arranged for him to go to a school run by Jesuit priests in Manila. These were turbulent times in the Philippines. The only years of relative peace in his life were those spent studying medicine in Europe, where he became a specialist in eye operations and fluent in many languages. Filled with love for his family and his land, he returned home in 1891 to practice medicine, teach children and help with the modernization of his village. When accused of inciting revolution because of his prominent position among his people, he was unable to flee in time to avoid execution, only a few years before the Filipino nation won independence from Spain. This is a moving story of a very exceptional individual, written in hagiographic terms but filled with historical detail. (8+) ✧ ☼

Europe

Great Britain

42
Cashford, Jules (reteller)
De'Angeli, Daniel (illus.)
Theseus & the Minotaur
Bath: Barefoot Books, 1995. 32pp
ISBN 1-898000-21-2
Greek mythology - Minotaur - Theseus - Greed - Betrayal
This classic myth of greed and betrayal is retold in an easily accessible but lengthy narrative.The text alternates with sparse water-color illustrations by the Italian painter De'Angeli which give his own rendering of the main events related in the text opposite. In an afterword the author points out the cultural and historical elements of the story and gives an interpretation of the symbolic meaning to be found in the main characters and their deeds. The book's aesthetically pleasing design will further it's appeal for older children. (8+)

43
Coplans, Peta (text/illus.)
Cat and Dog
London: Andersen, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 0-86264-578-6
Cat - Dog - Counting - Tolerance
Is this a counting book or a book about tolerance and friendly rivalry? The cat brings a delicious ten-course picnic (»snack« she calls it) to the beach but refuses to invite the dog to join her. Distracting her with a counting game, he manages to grab more than his share of the goodies. Fortunately she takes the loss lightly and in a critical moment the tension is broken with a game of chase. These gaily painted uncluttered full-page water-color illustrations are sure to appeal to pre-schoolers. (4+)

44
Dicks, Terrance (text)
Beaumont, Laura (illus.)
Virtual Unreality
London: Piccadilly Press, 1995. 75pp
(Chronicles of computer game addict)
ISBN 1-85340-321-0
Computer - School - Fantasy adventure

Zak is a computer game champion who seemed to have his addiction under control. But suddenly he and his elderly neighbor, the shopkeeper, and other adults also appear to be having hallucinations. Zak takes on the mission of tracking down the enemy named Virus in cyberspace and learns that though things may not always be as they appear to be, one can take control and change them. Black-and-white illustrations and a somewhat oversized type mark this as a early-reader book. This is the third adventure story about Zak, a boy whose wild and weird experiences will keep other boys of his age and background turning the pages. Reading could become addictive, too. (7-10) ☺

☺ Special Mention

45
Hendry, Frances Mary
Chandra (Proper name)
Oxford: University Press, 1995. 120pp
ISBN 0-19-271712-X
India/Customs - Marriage - Family

At the age of eleven Chandra, a schoolgirl in modern-day Delhi, is married by her family to a sixteen-year-old boy, a distant relative whose traditional family lives in a remote rural area. All her dreams of a modern marriage with a boy she immediately liked vanish when he dies before she arrives at his home. But in accordance with tradition, a widow must remain in the family, staying out of sight, and work as a servant. And indeed this family is very hard on her. Chandra's spirit, however, is not easily broken, and she manages to escape from this cruel fate. Though her parents refuse to help her, her grandmother finds a way to enable her ultimately to start a new life in England. This novel touches the heart in its portrayal of a determined girl up against nearly insurmountable odds.The narrative is well-paced, the local color of the city and rural Indian life believable. Though not written by a native of India, the author has surely done considerable background research to create a sympathetic portrayal of the dilemmas of Indians torn between socially cohesive traditions and the desire for progress and individual happiness. (12+) ✧

46
Howarth, Lesley
Weather Eye
London: Walker Books, 1995. 217pp
ISBN 9-7445-4305-3
Climate - Conservation - Electricity - Windmill - Computer-based communication

This novel is set in 1999 against a background of chaos in world weather patterns and reflects anxiety about the encironment and changing climate. Telly lives on a wind farm and is a member of »Weather Eye«, a club that shares information via Internet about climatic conditions all over the world. A near-death experience during a storm leaves her with psychic powers and a clear, if daunting purpose. The third award-winning book by Lesley Howarth is a sophisticated and well-written story in which the suspense and drama are sustained throughout. (12+)

47
McKay, Hilary
Dog Friday
London: Victor Gollancz, 1994. 125pp
ISBN 0-575-05837-4

Ten-year-old Robin and his widowed mother run a bed-and-breakfast in an old Victorian house on the Yorkshire coast. After a collision with a dog sends him to hospital, Robin is extremely wary of canines. His new neighbors, family with four children, whose wacky, unconventional and inventive way of life adds adventure to his life, help him overcome his fears of dogs and bullies. The sprightly story, full of funny episodes is a well-developed, fast-paced entertainment. (9+)

48
Stannard, Russell
Our Universe. A Guide to What's Out There
London: Kingfisher/Larousse, 1995. 96pp
ISBN 1-85697-317-4
Universe/Origins - Astronomy
Stannard, a professor of physics, has already written several well-received and entertaining introductions to the concepts of modern physics. Beginning here with the facts and basic laws of nature on our planet, he moves from matter and gravity to the solar system and on to the theories of the origins of our universe. The design of each page is varied, using colorful illustrations, box inserts for factual details, black-and-white cartoons and quiz questions, all arranged to keep the focus on the subject matter. This informative and easy-to-follow text will appeal even to young readers who might otherwise avoid natural science topics. (10+)

Ireland

49
Richards, Tom
Hotfoot
Dublin: Basement Press, 1995. 126pp
ISBN 1-85594-157-0
Football - Good/Evil
Larkin's Lot are a football team with a difference. They are the seven all-time worst players. In an attempt to achieve victory the two main players, Gerald and Fran, enter into a sinister plot with Lucky Lucy, the devil in a sports coat - and soon achieve more fame than they are ready for. The perennial struggle between the forces of good and evil is played out on a football pitch in this fast-paced comedy that is sure to appeal not only to football-playing boys. (10+)

50
O'Hara, Elizabeth
Blaeberry Sunday
Dublin: Poolbeg, 1994. 155pp
ISBN 1-85371-360-0
Ireland/History 1893 - First love - Self-discovery
In this sequel to »The Hiring Fair« the everyday life of a farming family in Donegal is presented from the standpoint of the eldest daughter, Sally. Returning from Scotland where she and her sister worked as hired hands, she finds that her would-be boyfriend is being pressured by his family to strive for a liaison with a richer girl. Sally has her own dreams for a better life and decides to pursue them by going off to Dublin. Full of authentic details of Irish country life in those times, a young girl's path of self discovery is portrayed here in a fascinating, well-paced narrative. (12+)

51
Taylor, Marilyn
Could this be love? I wondered
Dublin: O'Brien, 1994. 160pp
ISBN 0-86278-377-1
First love - Family - Social differences
Jackie lives in a well-to-do suburb of Dublin and has little contact with other poorer neighborhoods until she goes to a disco evening at another school. For quite some time she has been exchanging »he Look« with a boy on her bus line, to whom she feels mysteriously attracted. When they finally meet, there are still further barriers to be overcome. The ups and downs of their romance, with all the family and social complications, are told by her in the first person, making it a believable story which teenagers will be able to identify with. (14+)

52
Beckett, Mary
Hannah Or Pink Balloons
Dublin: Marino/Mercier, 1995. 96pp
ISBN 1-86023-032-6
Hannah, Mark and Ben stay with their Belfast grandmother for over six weeks while their parents are away. Then Granny has an accident, and the additional responsibilities placed upon them deepens the relationship between the children and their grandmother. The narrative structure is engaging, the characters well-developed as the children go about their everyday activities of school, homework and housework. Though the story works well without any sensations or crises, the text is interspersed with humorous side-line commentary by magpies who observe the events from their nest at the bottom of the garden. (10+)

53
O'Sullivan, Mark
Melody for Nora. One Girl's Story in the Civil War.
Dublin: Wolfhound, 1994. 217pp
ISBN 0-86327-425-0
Ireland/1922 - Father/Daughter - Music - Alcoholism

Set against the backdrop of the Irish Civil War in 1922, just one year after most of Ireland won independence, this timely balanced novel explores complex political allegiances, the horror of war and difficult family circumstances through the eyes of the its central character. Fourteen-year-old Nora looses her mother and experiences only bitterness in her usually drunken father. But she is musically talented, resourceful and ultimately a survivor. This novel is as much about Irish life in that turbulent period as it is about growing up in hard times. (12+)

North America

Canada

☺ Special Mention

54
Aura, Alejandro (text)
Gukova, Julia (illus.)
The Other Side
Transl. from Spanish by Shirley Langer and Sally Stokes Sefami
Toronto: Annick Press, 1995. [32pp]
ISBN 1-55037-405-2
Curiosity - Opposites - Reversal - Eternity

One day the king sent all the children in his kingdom out to discover what the world was like on the other side. Made curious by their reports that everything was just the same, except »sdrawkcab« he decided to see it all for himself. The surprising result is left open-ended in this playful, mind-boggling tale. The author, a prize-winning poet and philosopher, is a major figure in contemporary Mexican literature. The composition of this story follows the axioms of storytelling by awakening the curiosity and imagination of the young reader with thought-provoking ideas. The illustrator, who lives in Moscow, has already illustrated many children's books and won the Third Prize at the BIB. She has expanded the text with Alice-in-Wonderland-like imagery in a surrealistic style where colors play an important role. (7+)

55
Gilmore, Rachna (text)
Priestley, Alice (illus.)
Lights for Gita
Toronto: Second Story Press, 1994. [24pp]
ISBN 0-929005-63-5
Festival - Homesickness - Friendship

A young Indian girl whose family recently moved to the chilly northern climate of Canada excitedly looks forward to celebrating Divali, the Hindi celebration of lights in honor of Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth who brings good fortune and prosperity to all throughout the year. Though the day turns out much differently than she expected, she makes another step toward accepting her new surroundings. (6+) ◇ ○

56
Gugler, Laurel Dee (text)
Willms, Russ (illus.)
Little Wynne's Giggly Thing
Toronto: Annick Press, 1995. [24pp]
ISBN 1-55037-407-9
Family - Usefulness

Little Wynne would like to contribute to the running of the household, but all the important things in home and garden are taken care of by the adults. So she turns to making gadgets and sculptures whose only function is to stimulate laughter and enjoyment. Not successful at first, she is persistent and finally gets the others to see the usefulness of her own playful creations. The caricaturist full-page and double-spread illustrations support the zany thesis of the book. (6+)

USA

57
Ashby, Ruth (ed.)
Deborah Gore Ohrn (ed.).
Her Story. Women Who Changed
the World
Intro. by Gloria Steinem
New York: Viking, 1995. 304pp
ISBN 0-670-85434-4
World/History - Women/Fame
This compendium of 120 biographies of women who became famous during the course of »history« is an inspiring, informative book. Each two-page biography is prefaced with a quotation that can be taken as that woman's life motto. The long list runs from an Egyptian queen born in 1486 B.C. to the Guatamlan freedom fighter Menchú, born in 1959. Texts by the nine contributors highlight the early circumstances, turning points and main achievements in each woman's life. An introductory essay summarizes the course of women's collective fate and an extensive bibliography gives valuable tips for further reading. Nearly half the woman cited were born in the USA, but over 60 women from other countries can also be identified by country in an index. (12+)

58
Banyai, Istvan
Zoom; Re-Zoom
New York: Viking, 1995. each [64]pp
ISBN 0-670-85804-8; 0-670-86392-0
Wordless picture book - Perception - Travel
The Hungarian-born, New York-based artist Banyai has composed two fascinating picture books with mind-expanding images fitting together like a Russian wooden doll, Babouschka. He takes the beholder on a wordless journey through space and time via images which follow upon one another in a telescope fashion. The first scene focuses on one minute object. With each successive page, one finds either more detail revealed in a wide-angle panorama or the previous context once again concealed by another jump backwards. As each individual, snapshot-like scene unfolds, it depicts events in different epochs in different parts of the world, ranging from Egypt, Hollywood, India, to Japan. These books surely invite the younger reader to look carefully over and over again, to explore details, sense shifts of perspective and see incongruities; older viewers can appreciate the books as visually rendered intellectual exercises in freeing the imagination from the boundaries of time and space. (6+)

59
Bruhac, Joseph (reteller)
Shrader, Christine Nyburg (illus.)
Gluskabe and the four wishes
New York: Cobblehil Books/Dutton. 1995. [32pp]
ISBN 0-525-65164-0
Wabanaki/Folktale - Greed - Wish
The author, a well-known storyteller, is a registered member of the Western Abenaki Nation of the Wabanaki peoples of New England. He drew on several written and oral sources in writing this tale about the selfish consequences of desire and foolhardy curiosity. The Glushabe (also spelled Koluskap or Gloopskap) is a cultural hero who aids the Great Spirit of all things, and here gives each of the four men their various heart's desires. As he points out, the oral stories are meant to teach but also must entertain.The text is complemented by dark natural tones which corresponde to the natural environment. (6+)

60
Cohen, Daniel
Real Vampires
New York: Cobblehill Books/Dutton, 1995. 114pp
ISBN 0-525-665189-6
Vampire/History
Cohen rightly notes in his introduction that the imaginations of children and adults alike are easily captivated by the figure of the vampire, or rather stories and rumors of their existence. Young adult literature abounds with horror stories today. Cohen has collected a facinating compendium of tales and events from different countries which have been told over the past 200 years.He relates each story briefly within an objective framework and gives a commentary. The reader can thus maintain a distanced stance and even laugh about the gullibility of »other people« while still enjoying the tales, too. (10+)

☺ Special Mention

61
Feelings, Tom
The Middle Passage. White Ships - Black Cargo
Intro.by Dr. John Henrik Clarke
New York: Dial Books, 1995. [80pp]
ISBN 0-80377-1804-7
Africa/Slavery - North America/Slavery - South America/Slavery

The renowned US-American artist and professor of art, Tom Feelings, expresses the horror of the African diaspora - the transport of millions of black men, women and children into slavery in the New World - in 64 narrative paintings. Feelings captures here a world-shattering event while also giving expression to a highly personal experience. Leaving out any text captions helps to emphasize that this sin against humanity can only be fully realized at the visceral level. In an introduction he explains how he came to develop this project, while Dr. Clarke gives historical background to the forces that led to the slave trade. This is a highly recommendable work for showing young people that history is more than facts, illustration is much more than decoration. (10+) ◇

62
Garland, Michael (text/illus.)
Dinner at Magritte's
New York: Dutton, 1995. [32]pp
ISBN 0-525-45336-9
Dali, Salvador - Magritte, René - Fantasy - Art

The American illustrator Garland conveys his enthusiasm for surrealist art in this simple story of a young boy living outside of Paris who breaks out of the boring, even petrifying stillness of his parent's cottage to visit his artist neighbor, Magritte. When Magritte's friend Dali also pays a visit, they help Pierre discover that there are other ways of visualizing one's immediate surroundings. Garland's colorful surrealist illustrations invite readers to open their imaginations. (4+)

63
Murphy, Jim (text)
Kiesler, Kate (illus.)
Into the Deep Forest with Henry David Thoreau
New York: Clarion Books, 1995. 39pp
ISBN 0-395-60522-9
Thoreau, Henry David/Travels - Nature

The award-winning non-fiction writer, Jim Murphy, uses Thoreau's own journal entries about a trip through the wilderness of Maine to create an adventure story of suspense and discovery which young readers who appreciate nature will find eye-opening. Watercolor scenes of landscape and black-and-white vignettes of animals and plants attractively frame the easy-to-read text. (8+) ☼

64
On the Wings of Peace.
Writers and Illustrators Speak Out for Peace, in Memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Hamanaka, Sheila (comp./intro.)
New York: Clarion Books, 1995. 144pp
ISBN 0-395-72619-0
Peace/Anthology

This collection of contributions from 60 well-known authors and illustrators from numerous countries of the world is dedicated to the people who died at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, a terrible event which serves to remind us why we must work for peace. The written contributions are short texts about true or fictitious events or poems well-suited for reading aloud. Some speak to the mind, others to the heart, but all condemn war and its pain. The artwork includes every thinkable type of media. The pieces are excellently reproduced on full-sized pages. The book was put together with great care and dedication. It includes a valuable bibliography of resource materials on war and on conflict resolution for adults and for children, biographical notes on the authors and illustrators and step-by-step instructions for folding an origami paper crane. (6+) ◇

65
Scieszka, Jon (text)
Smith, Lane (illus.)
Maths Curse
London: Viking/Penguin, 1995. [32pp]
(Orig. ed: New York: Viking, 1995)
ISBN 0-670-86631-8
Mathematics - School
When his teacher states that „almost everything [is] a maths problem“, a boy begins to see his entire life in terms of numbers and mathematical functions. He begins to feel she has put a curse on him. Of course, for this well-known author-illustrator team that is just an excuse to give the reader a riotously funny romp through a maze of incongruous quiz questions. The artwork and design of each page are fully absorbing, and the clear typeface suggests that this is also a book for first readers. The editor has apologized for and corrected a mathematical error which was overlooked. Fans of this author-illustrator team will not be disappointed in this latest collaboration. (6+)

66
Venezia, Mike (text/illus.)
Jackson Pollock
Chicago: Children's Press, 1994. 32pp
(Getting to know the world's greatest artists)
ISBN 0-516-02298-9
Mike Venezia believes strongly that the best way to introduce children to art or music is through fun. His wry and witty texts and matching comical, deadpan illustrations are interspersed with samples of the artist's most famous pieces. The easy-to-read texts highlight key biographical facts and stages in the artist's development. This series includes books on a broad range of artists from Sandro Botticelli and Rembrandt to Georgia O'Keefe and Edward Hopper. Another series done in the same style is titled »Getting to know the world's greatest composers« and includes modern composers such as Aaron Copland and earlier ones such as George Händel. (8+)

German Language

Austria

67
Frischmuth, Barbara (text)
Kállay, Dušan (illus.)
Gutenachtgeschichte für Maria Carolina
(Good-night Story for Mary Caroline)
Wien: Jugend & Volk, 1994. [26pp]
ISBN 3-224-11051-1
Sleep - Dream - Toad - Fantasy - Orderliness
While taking an adventurous journey, Mary Caroline and the dreamtime toad meet the Sudel (a German term for sloven), little friendly creatures whose disconcern for orderliness - especially at the table - immediately wins the full sympathy of the child. But while the Sudel are able to simply shake off their messes, all of Caroline's messes are still to be seen on her clothing the next day. And yet it is clear - dreams can help. Particulary essential to this story are the bizarre-fantastic pictures of Dusan Kállay, whose sophisticated use of coloring gives the eye a visual adventure. (6+)

68
Goller, Anja (text)
Brinx, Thomas (text)
Plöger, Juliane (illus.)
Koch Eduard träumt
(Eduard the Cook Dreams)
Wien: Esslinger im Österreichischen Bundesverlag, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 3-215-11856-4
Fish - Cook - Dream - Love - Promise
A lonely fish cook dreams even at night of the pleasures of fishing. Suddenly he realizes that as a professional cook he must kill the fish. But when the queen of the fish promises to marry him, he changes his cuisine from fish specialities to sweet dishes. The illustrations are on the one hand notably reminiscent of the old masters. A touch of children's painting, on the other hand, may be seen in the fish and their surroundings. The resulting tension matches that between dream and real-life. (8+)

69
Janisch, Heinz (text)
Kernke, Gabriele (illus.)
Benni und die sieben Löwen
(Benni and the Seven Lions)
Wien: Betz, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 3-219-10601-3
Fear - Fantasy - Self-confidence
Benni has lots of courage. In the course of one day he conquers seven threatening lions. They cross his path while he was defending himself against the other children. At home in the evening he tells all about it and it becomes clear that he can fight crocodiles, too (they are sitting at the dinner table with him). It needn't only be lions. This is an eye-winking book of encouragement that children will immediately respond to. (6+)

70
Jooß, Erich (text)
Boratyński, Antoni (illus.)
Der Sohn des Häuptlings
(The Chief's Son)
Mödling: St. Gabriel, 1995. [32pp]
ISBN 3-85264-474-4
Indians/Legend - The Flood <motif> - Creation
The son of the tribe's chief refuses to become a warrior. He encounters the great Mother Earth who has tried to heal the wounds to the earth which men have caused. Finally she announces the Great Flood and the chief's son survives in the Ark. When the flood recedes, the earth begins to bloom again. A dolphin becomes a young woman and she stays with him. This Indian legend unites Christian biblical and naturalist myths. The topic of war and peace is expanded upon by the illustrator by focussing on Nature and the idea of creation. (8+)

71
Nöstlinger, Christine (text)
Sidibé, Frank Abu (text)
Waldschütz, Barbara (illus.)
Madisou (Proper name)
Wien: Dachs, 1995. [36pp]
ISBN 3-85191-026-5
Africa/Fairy tale - Cinderella <motif>
The great village celebration is about to take place, but one girl, the step-daughter of an African mother,

is not allowed to decorate herself. A lion comes to her rescue and the black king's son chooses the lovely Cinderella to be his wife. Thereupon the stepmother and her daughters, filled with jealousy and anger, turn into large and angry buzzing flies. Ever since then all large flies buzz. This variation of the widely known fairy tale motif, in which a lion turns into a braid-making hairdresser for the African Cinderella, gives the story a fully new touch. The pictures are based on African art. (10+)

72
Pelz, Monika
Der Talker
(The Talker)
Wien: Jungbrunnen, 1995. 142pp
ISBN 3-7026-5678-2
Cyberspace - Future - Media - Crime - Detective
In the year 2004 it may be possible for a (virtual) talkmaster to have eternal youth, while his human original is dying of boredom in a retirement home. private detective Lilly Lobster (17) solves the case with the help of her few but trusty friends. The reader will find himself confronted with baffling new forms of cohabitation, interpersonal communication and justice. Using the current usage of electronic media as a starting point, the author takes it virtually (and pleasurably ironically) a step further. (10+)

73
Slupetzky, Stefan (text/illus.)
Nurmi, der Bär
(Nurmi the Bear)
Wien: Picus, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 3-85452-089-1
Bear - Runaway - Mischief - Return home
Nurmi is the most curious, most hungry, most sassy, most brave but also the loneliest and saddest bear around. As long as he enjoys his roaming, he plays one trick after the other on people. But when winter comes, he withdraws into the family cave. And now he is the most-in-love bear of all. This light-hearted story presents interesting possibilities of how (bear) children can really pester, though not without some risk, the adults. But a happy ending is possible anyway. (6+)

Germany

74
Chidolue, Dagmar
No Bahamas (No Bahamas)
Hamburg: Dressler, 1995. 205pp
ISBN 3-7915-0388-X
School holiday - Family - First love - Siblings
The thirteen-year-old twin sisters Annabel and Linda are both in love with Finn Rückert. But the whole touchy matter only gets off the ground when the Moll family takes their holiday at home. The neighbors are not supposed to notice that they haven't gone away (»no Bahamas«!) and playing hide-and-seek involves no little difficulty. This is a cheerful and slightly ironic story about the apparently so very taken-for-granted living conditions and expectations of people in West Europe. (12+)

75
Drude, Lothar (text)
Wittkamp, Franz (illus.)
Mauerblümchen und Schattenmonster
(Wallflower and Shadow-monsters)
Recklinghausen: Bitter, 1995. 64pp
Argument - Neighbor - Wall - Reconciliation
It is the wish of the combative shadow-monsters, Morgler and Abenil, to let the wall of the soul between Ferdinand and Fridolin and the stone wall between their gardens grow higher and higher. When the hobo, Wall-flower, decides to take a nap on the little wall, he is able to take the role of a non-partisan mediator. With the support of Wittkamp's illustrations, the author successfully portrays the wrongs of a groundless enmity and the satisfying reconciliation of the opposing parties. (6+)

76
Erlbruch, Wolf (text/illus.)
Frau Meier, die Amsel
(Mrs. Meier, the Blackbird)
Wuppertal: Hammer, 1995. [32pp]
ISBN 3-87294-644-7
Blackbird - Pet - Flying - Learning
Mr. and Mrs. Meier live a quiet and fairly uncomplicated life - until a blind baby blackbird lands in their pumpkin patch. Mrs. Meier raises it, feeding it

worms and flies all day and night. The crowning moment of her efforts comes when the little bird learns to fly. Mrs. Meier must herself take to flight before the blackbird dares to try. Mr. Meier has never seen his wife so happy. Since Erlbruch's stories are not necessarily limited to earthly matters, the theme, tone and pictures of this book fit together exquisitely. (5+)

77
Erlbruch, Wolf (text/illus.)
Zehn grüne Heringe
(Ten Green Herrings)
München: Hanser, 1995. [24pp]
ISBN 3-446-18278-0
Herring - Children's poetry

In an unconventional and boisterous style Erlbruch re-writes and re-illustrates the poem »Ten Little Indians« as a totally nonsensical story about ten green herrings. In this version everything is possible and in the end they are ten again. This small-sized book, designed to be carried about anywhere by children and adults, to be told and looked at again and again, is pleasing in both word and picture. (4+)

78
Friedrichson, Sabine (text/illus.)
Der Glasball
(The Glass Ball)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1995. [32pp]
ISBN 3-407-79155-0
England/Fairy tale - Fox - Girl

Loss and betrayal, lies and faithlessness with an uncertain ending are the stuff fairy tales are made of. Here a girl tries to get her glass ball back out of the fox's yard. Only by breaking a number of rules can she find her ball again. When she flees, the animals whom she meets during her flight promise not to betray her, but do so anyway as soon as the fox makes inquiries about her. The fox, the girl and the glass ball were never seen again. The repetitive style of this fairy-tale plot finds its visual counterpart in the regular spatial design of the pages. Thus the dynamics of the plot and the statics of the symbolism balance each other out. (6+)

79
Giordano, Mario (text)
Spohr, Heinz (illus.)
Drei vom Zirkus - I tre del circo
(Three from the Circus)
Reinbek: Rowohlt, 1995. 135pp
ISBN 3-499-20786-9
Circus - Animal Trainer - Escape - Survival - Bilingual text

Thle Circus Malinka is in desparate straits. The animals are being tormented, their food is running out. The she-wolf, Aischa, the little pig, Ludwig, and the raven Kolja succeed in breaking out of their cages and finding a way to the mountains. Tonio, the son of the animal trainer, successfully pursues them in order to save them from being killed. The author describes the ordeal of the captive animals and their longing for freedom with considerable sympathy. (8+)

80
Grimm, Brothers (text)
Heidelbach, Nikolaus (illus.)
Märchen
(Fairy Tales)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1995. 383pp
ISBN 3-407-79684-6
Germany/Fairy tales/Anthology

This edition presents the works of Nikolaus Heidelbach. The satirical manner of the artist, as he supplements and interprets the content of the tales, occasionally offers new ways of looking at familar tales. Numerous full-paged illustration plates give this attractively designed, voluminous edition the character of a home treasury, ever ready to be leafed through, looked at and read aloud. (6+)

81
Härtling, Peter
Jette (Proper name)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1995. 129pp
ISBN 3-407-79683-8
Sexual abuse/Suspicion - Friendship - Single mother

Jette is often left to her own devices. Thus she is pleased to have the friendship of two older gentlemen in the bookstore across the street who in turn encourage her love for literature. When the suspicion is raised that Jette is being sexually molested there, her magical (fairy tale) world is destroyed. She feels humiliated by suspicious adults who think they know everything. Full of insight, but avoiding sensationalism, the author writes about this volatile issue from an unusual point of view. (12+)

82
Heidenreich, Elke (text)
Buchholz, Quint (illus.)
Nero Corleone (Proper name)
München: Hanser, 1995. 87pp
ISBN 3-446-18344-2
Italy - Germany - Cat - Psychology - Leadership
Tomcat Nero, six weeks old, is the self-appointed boss of an Italian farmyard thanks to his lion-like bravery which verges on brazenness. He manages to travel to Germany with a family of animal-loving German tourists, to a cat's paradise, and even brings his little naive, blue-eyed, cross-eyed sister Rosa along, too. There he helps to populate his new neighborhood in Cologne with his favorite female friend »Little Kleist.« And at the end of his days he feels drawn again back to his farmyard. With unsentimental, laconic humor the author writes this glorious story of the macho-mafioso Nero the Lion-hearted for all cat fans, young and old alike. (8+)

83
Hentschel, Henky
Ramóns Bruder
(Ramón's Brother)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1995. 193pp
ISBN 3-407-80827-5
Carribean - Everyday life - Outsider - Brother - Color of skin
The inhabitants of the Carribean took the proud traditions of their peoples seriously as long as their own daily life was intact. For instance, evil spirits were made responsible for the light complexion of a baby's skin when an albino was born. This was the case for Ramón's brother, who must come to terms with his fate as an outsider. The reader discovers in an entertaining but stirring way through one Carribean family many essential facts about this people, whose values have not been able to survive within the Western civilization. (10+)

84
Herfurtner, Rudolf
Muschelkind (Clam Child)
Hamburg: Oetinger, 1995. 189pp
ISBN 3-7891-3704-9
Ecology - Water - Mussels - Pearls - Folktale
A folktale, the ecological problems of today's world and the story of one girl's growing up are united in this novel by a fascinating plot. Margarete feels especially drawn toward the brook and its meadowlands. When the waste water of the new factory cause disease among the clams in the brook, she risks her life to prevent an ecological disaster. The author succeeds in portraying contemporary issues in their social and historical context in conjunction with the developments in the life of a young protagonist. (10+)

85
Hohler, Franz (text)
Loosli, Arthur (illus.)
Tschipo in der Steinzeit (Chipo in the Stone Age)
Ravensburg: Ravensburger Buchverlag, 1995. 190pp
ISBN 3-473-34283-1
Dream - Reality - Time travel - Stone Age - Language
Chipo dreams that he lives in the Stone Age. Patiently and with much fantasy he tries to get to know the stone age men's a way of life, though it is very strange to him. In particular their language is incompatible with his own rich, modern-day vocabulary. Hence he turns to creating words by using (somewhat linguistic) techniques of onomatopieia to explain the advantages of cooking and the possibilities of modern technology to the cave men. This is a charming story full of wit and subtle connotations told in an easy-going, unconventional narrative style. (10+)

German Language

86
Ich bin, was ich bin, ein Jude.
Jüdische Kinder in Deutschland erzählen
(I am what I am, a Jew. Told by Jewish Children in Germany)
Brum, Alexa, Heuberger, Rachel et. al. (eds.)
Preface by Ignatz Bubis.
Köln: Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 1995. 123pp
ISBN 3-462-02430 - 2
Germany/Everyday life - Jew/Child - Children's writing

These short texts by Jewish children demonstrate that the current generation of six to eighteen-year-olds are very much aware of the problems of present-day situation and often reflect on them with ambivalent feelings. But their approach to life is marked above all by the wish to live an absolutely normal life within German society. Books of this type can be the beginning of a necessary opening of the general interest in Jewish matters. In an appendix further information about Jewish culture and history are included. (10+)

87
Janosch (text/illus.)
Wie der Tiger zählen lernt
(How Tiger Learns to Count)
München: Mosaik, 1995. [40pp]
ISBN 3-576-10488-7
Counting - Humor - Irony

One of Janosch's black humor maxims about living is »whoever can count will never fail in life.« Hence little Tiger finds it necessary to learn to count. He counts his friends, but not his enemies (for it is an honor to be included in Tiger's count), and everything that creeps and flees. The reader can practice too, in memory of the nice days of counting with little Tiger. This is a heart-warming book whose best feature is the total absence of any pedagogical methodicism or »little steps.« (6+)

88
Johansen, Hanna (text)
Berner, Rotraut Susanne (illus.)
Der Füsch (The Fysh)
München: Hanser, 1995. [32pp]
ISBN 3-446-17868-7
Fish - Secret - Imagination

A fysh is a fysh is a fysh (in »adultspeak«: fish). This is probably what Dodo thinks, after her birthday wish for such a fish was fulfilled. It can turn red and blue and multi-colors (when it wants to). It can run around the table with Dodo and Dodo can swim with it in the aquarium. They want to find out which is better, running or swimming. Naturally they do all this only in private, without any family audience. The text and illustrations hit the bull's-eye of the secret world of children and fyshes, just as one would expect from this author-illustrator team. (6+)

89
Kant, Uwe (text)
Denecke, Gesa (illus.)
Wer hat den Bären gesehen?
(Who Has Seen the Bear?)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1995. 69pp
ISBN 3-407-79669-2
Bear - Zoo - Escape

The bear has escaped from the zoo because the visitors claimed that bears belong in the forest. So he looks for the forest while his keeper looks for him. In general it is merely known that the bear possesses the ability to stand on his hands and on his head and to wiggle his ears. However, the author admits that he made up this bear. Uwe Kant gives younger children a funny story and quite incidentally a first introduction into the method and purpose of literary story-telling. (7+)

90
Kasparavičius, Kaspar (text/illus.)
Ostereier
(Easter-Eggs)
Esslingen: Schreiber, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN3-215-11907-2
Easter Egg - Nonsense

This unusual picture book is an incentive for an entertaining egg hunt and riddle solving at

Eastertime and anytime, where ever eggs can be searched for and found: in the woods, on the catwalk, and even in egg paradise. The painter from Lithuania, who did this book especially for the German publisher, lets richly detailed, brilliantly colored pages tell his story. (4+)

91
Ludwig, Christa
Links neben Cori
(To the left of Cori)
Weinheim: Anrich, 1995. 156pp
ISBN 3-89106-231-1
Sudden-Death-Syndrome - Bereavement - Twin - Friendship - Yugoslavia/Germany
Corinna, a German girl, and Seada, a Bosnian girl, have become friends. Each of them has had to deal with death. Seada's brother and her father died in the Yugoslavian civil war. Corinna's twin sister died as a baby. The author succeeds in vividly portraying the considerable differences in experience between the two children. Minor features of everyday life become important due to the different associations each makes. The reader learns how the two girls together succeed in getting over the catastrophic experiences of their childhoods. (10+)

92
Merten, C.S.
Gestehen Sie, Dr. Thoma!
(Confess, Dr. Thoma!)
Berlin: Elefanten Press, 1994. 102pp
ISBN 3-88520-506-8
Television - Cyberspace - School - Friendship - Doll
The introverted Robert and his very outgoing classmate Hürlimann fall in love at the same time with Mary, the new exchange student from the United States. But soon they make an unexpected discovery while trying to help an indisposed Mary and find themselves on the trail of a crime. With much humor, the author pokes fun at television reality, where virtual and genuine reality can hardly be distinguished from one another anymore. (8+)

93
Obrecht, Bettina (text)
Meyer, Kerstin (illus.)
Jonas läßt sich scheiden
(Jonas Gets Divorced)
Hamburg: Oetinger, 1995. 64pp
ISBN3-7891-0505-8
House-sharing - Family - Friendship - Role-switch
Jonas has two moms, two dads, five grannys and three grandpas, as well as several half-brothers and half-sisters because his parents are divorced and remarried. His friend Pablo and his mother, who is also separated from her husband, shares a flat with others. Jonas and Pablo decide to switch families on a trial basis, but this doesn't work out. Jonas comes to the realization that to get a divorce one must be an adult. A delightful reminiscence on the days of the student revolution generation, which only partly succeeded in finding new forms of family-style living. (8+)

94
Pausewang, Gudrun
Die Verräterin
(The Traitor)
Ravensburg. Ravensburger Buchverlag, 1995. 190pp
ISBN 3-473-35147-4
Germany/History 1939-1945 - Russian prisoner-of-war - Hiding - Betrayal
Anna aids a young Russian prisoner-of-war who has hidden on her parents farm. Yet she had given her word of honor to her brother that she would not do so. When the Russian army approaches, the soldiers take revenge for all the injustice suffered at the hands of Germans by randomly shooting down most of the village inhabitants. The young Russian is not there to save Anna's family. He had already been shot by her fanatic brother. The author succeeds in rendering an extreme situation in a impressive literary form. (12+)

95
Rathenow, Lutz (text)
Bauer, Peter (illus.)
Floh Dickbauch
(Flea Fatgut)
Leipzig: LeiV, 1995. [48pp]
ISBN 3-928885-48-0
Usefulness - Animals - Fleas - Pigs

The flea Fatgut considers his existence meaningless and would like to turn into a useful animal. He tries to be a pig: puffs himself up, wallows in pink paint and puts on a cardboard snout. But when he discovers that the usefulness of a pig is calculated in pounds, he prefers to find a more intellectual occupation. He pricks anyone who picks on other people. To everyone's joy, these bad-tempered people become ready and willing to improve themselves. This is a parable about the role of material and spiritual values in life. (8+)

☺ Special Mention

96
Schär, Brigitte (text)
Gleich, Jacky (illus.)
Das geht doch nicht!
(That Won't Work!)
München: Hanser, 1995. [24pp]
ISBN 3-446-18279-7
Christmas - Present - Secret - Terror - Education

The beloved youngest child of the family is making Christmas presents. No one can or wants to try to stop her, but they grow more and more amazed. It appears to be something gigantic. The family is already celebrating under the Christmas tree in the kitchen (there is not enough room anywhere else) when the beloved child finally reveals the secret. The family is given a ship, big enough for them all to fit into, and they immediately go off to the sea, even though the necessary demolition of the apartment house in order to get the ship to water is rather disturbing to some of them. This affectionate-ironical story about the situation of the youngest children, who are both gifted and pampered, and whose wishes are hard to refuse. The illustrations supplement the events of the plot in a very successful, chaotic manner. (6+)

97
Schami, Rafik
Reise zwischen Nacht und Morgen
(Journey Between Night and Morning)
München: Hanser, 1995. 350p
ISBN 3-446-17864-3
Circus - Friendship - Love - Travel - Death

The great adventure for Circus Sarmani begins with an unexpected trip to the Orient. The director is trying to track down his family roots. He and his oriental friend become younger and younger the longer the journey lasts. This is a fantastic, but worldly novel written as a series of episodes from the mysterious world of the circus. (10+)

98
Schneider, Karla
Die Reise in den Norden
(Journey to the North)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1995. 396pp
ISBN 3-407-76671-4
Skandinavia/1730 - Exploration - Androgyny

Isak Zettervall embarks on a botanical research journey in the 18th century to the still unexplored northern areas of Scandinavia, also entrusted with a secret political mission for the king. The progress of his journey is burdened by the unexpected arrival of an at first unwelcome young female accompaniment. Surprisingly it turns out that the success of the entire undertaking would be questionable without her assistance. The author gives a captivating account of the peoples and landscape of the far North. (10+)

99
Tollmien, Cordula
Fürstin der Wissenschaft. Die Lebensgeschichte der Sofia Kowalewskaja
(Countess of Science. The Life of Sofia Kowalewskaja)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1995. 190pp
ISBN 3-407-80735-X
Russia/History 1850-1900 - Women/University - Mathematics

Sofia Kowalewskaja was one of the first women to become an university graduate. This information book describes her development from a protected childhood within the Russia haute bourgeoisie -

which she herself described in her highly successful literary »Childhood Memories«- to her political activism and to her appointment as a mathematician at the University of Stockholm. With this example of the fate of an unusual woman, the reader is presented with a vivid segment of the history of political upheavals and the beginnings of women's liberation in Central Europe. (10+)

100
Vahle, Frederik
Federico oder das Leben ist kein Hühnerspiel
(Federico or Life is No Chicken-game)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1995. 110pp
ISBN 3-407-79690-0
Federico Garcia Lorca/Biography - Outsider
The happy, sheltered childhood of the Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca was a source of his poetry. Even younger children will be able to understand how literature and life influence one another with this short biography. As a young boy Lorca lived amidst the other children in his surroundings as a dreamy outsider. Up to his early death in the Spanish Civil War, writing poetry was an existential necessity in his life, which the author cautiously tracked down. (8+)

101
Waluszek, Christian
Wilfried (Proper name)
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1995. 283pp
ISBN 3-522-16893-3
Intelligence - Mentally handicapped - Circus Exhibitor - Murder - Psychiatry
Winifred is looking for his uncle. But his uncle has been murdered (to mention only the beginnings of this pleasureably told satire-detective story). Uncle Ludwig's well-preserved corpse is hidden in the horror house where Wilfried works. (Detectives will enjoy the wordplay »Toter Mann« standing for the corpse and the figure in the horror house). The story is settled to everyone's satisfaction and the bad guys get their just reward. With a black but not bitter humor, the author sketches the dark and lighter sides of humanity, much to the pleasure of the reader. (12+)

102
Zweig, Stefanie
Nirgendwo in Afrika
(Nowhere in Africa)
München: Langen Müller, 1995. 383pp
ISBN 3-7844-2560-7
Africa/Childhood - Cultural comparison - Jew/Persecution
A Jewish family flees from Germany to Africa in 1938. While the parents cannot adjust to life in a strange culture or to their status as »enemy refugees«, the preschool child Regina grows up to womanhood under circumstances full of sacrifices, but also full of love toward fellow man, for the landscape and the culture of Africa. At the end of the war the family returns to Germany, but now it is Regina who loses her beloved African home. This literary and extremely captivating text gives an authentic portrait of a child growing up in a foreign culture. (16+)

Switzerland

103
Johansen, Hanna (text)
Bhend, Käthi (illus.)
Die Hexe zieht den Schlafsack enger
(The Witch Pulls the Sleeping Bag Tighter)
Zürich: Nagel & Kimche, 1995. [76pp]
ISBN 3-312-00787-9
Calendar - Poetry
Subversive and rebellious in content, conventional in rhyme and meter, these verses come from the whole year long. Without the aid of a continuous storyline, one still learns much about the joys, sorrows and everyday life of a little girl, about her family problems and celebrations. Käthe Bhend's well-received, bizarre illustrations are the ideal accompaniment to this volume. (8+)

104
Limmacher, Roland
Juliluft
(The Winds of July)
Zürich: Diogenes, 1995. 136pp
ISBN 3-257-06034-3
Self-identity - Friendship - Homeless man
Julius, nicknamed Schüül, makes friends with two

men who are putting together a Cadillac from the wrecks in a car scrap yard, where one of them, Most, even lives. When the two men get into trouble with the police, they run away, taking Schüül - against his will - with them. He must find his way home all alone: the way from childhood to adulthood. He sees old Most just one more time, when the police have extradicted him from a southern country and placed him in a mental hospital. (14+)

105
Pacovská, Kveta (text/illus.)
Türme
(Towers)
Gossau: Neugebauer, 1995. [44pp]
ISBN 3-85195-368-1
Tower - Dream - Play - Sunset - Flying
A new artist's picture book that both challenges and quickens the narrative imagination. Where can »towers« be better imagined than in Bologna, Italy? They have much to whisper to one another in the magical hour between daytime and dreamtime - about flying, story-telling and celebrations. With this impressing large-sized format, with folds and flaps to look at and read - the artist has truly made this an uplifting book. (6+)

106
Schami, Rafik (text)
Cools, Ed (illus.)
Streich, Oliver (illus.)
Der Schnabelsteher (Maker of Beak-stands)
Zürich: Nord-Süd-Verl., 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 3-314-00715-9
Single mother - Outsider - Courage - Vanity - Game
The little raven is still too young to fly - but no other raven child can stand on their beak like he can. Hence, it cannot understand why the pheasant is called the king of the birds, since he has those beautiful feathers through no effort of his own and he does nothing else all day but show off by faning his tail. The raven's efforts to dethrone the »king« are met with great approval by the other animals. So ever since then a beak-standing raven is regarded more highly than a peacock fanning his tail. This is a story of encouragement for young outsiders. (6+)

107
Schneider, Jürg E. (text)
Siegfried, Anita (text)
Müller, Jörg (illus.)
Auf der Gasse und hinter dem Ofen.
Eine Stadt im Spätmittelalter
(In the Alley and Behind the Chimney.
A Town in the Late Middle Ages)
Aarau: Sauerländer, 1995. 47pp, 4 posters
ISBN 3-7941-3906-2
Germany/1309-1349 - City/Everyday life - Plague
Four persons of different age groups and social backgrounds lead the reader into a foreign world, a city in the middle of the 14th century. A boy, a girl, a young woman and a monk go through a typical day, fulfilling different tasks and duties. In preparing the painstakingly elaborate frieze-style illustrations as supplements to the text, Jörg Müller used true-to-original models of towns. The extremely difficult plan to bring the historical context and traditions to life appears to be successful in this large-format portfolio of text and illustration. Factual materials are also included, so that the necessary imaginative processes can take place on the basis of solid facts. (8+)

108
Traxler, Hans (text/illus)
Wenn Kühe Propeller hätten
(If Cows Had Propellers)
Zürich: Diogenes, 1995. 54pp
ISBN 3-257-00823-6
Nonsense - Logic
The caricaturist Hans Traxler gives himself and his readers this gift of a book filled with relaxing double-entendre and so-called non-sense. In series of »if-then« sentences he creates the most absurd causal relations. The purpose behind this activity may lay in pointing out the irony of adult logic which in general usage and as forced upon children is often not easily understandable. Having a laugh over unexpected (word) imagery is a liberating experience. Especially when laughing together. (8+)

109
Weninger, Brigitte (text)
Marks, Alan (illus.)
Auf Wiedersehen, Papa
(Goodbye, Papa)
Gossau: Neugebauer, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN3-85195-563-6
Marital separation - Everyday life - Anger

Only his Teddy can explain to Tom why he does not need to be angry with his absent father. When his mother and father (bear) no longer get along peaceably in their cramped cave, it is better for everyone when he meets the father outside to play and romp about. And soon he comes back again. This picture book does not make use of intellectual explanations to show young children how to make the best of an unsatisfying situation. (6+)

Europe

Belgium (French)

☺ Special Mention

110
Stibane (text/illus.)
L'Arbre aux Corbeaux
(The Tree of the Ravens)
Paris: Pastel, 1995. [36pp]
ISBN 2-211-029-63-5
Raven - Enemy - Violence - Civil war - Destruction - Fable

A large swarm of ravens lives peacefully in an old tree until one of them finds a red scrap of material and decides he will become the king. A little later another raven discovers a scrap of yellow material and also wants to become king. That means war! The rival kings and their followers fall upon each other. A merciless war ensues. Finally one group sets fire to the tree to kill off the enemy. When the tree is ablaze, the ravens finally realize what they have done. The fighters unite and put out the fire. Peace returns and as an admonition, the yellow and red scraps are left to hang on the tree. This fable of the raven's civil war is expressively staged. The sparse text outlines the course of the story and lets the illustrations portray the action. The aggression of the explosively escalating forms and color are very effective means for conveying the meaning and message of the story: how violence develops, what destructive forces they encompass, which even when held in check, still exist under the surface. (5+) ☼

111
Vincent, Gabrielle (text/illus.)
Je voudrais qu'on m'écoute
(Please Listen to Me)
Paris/ Louvain-la-Neuve: Duculot, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 2-203-55163-1
Loneliness - Runaway - Neglect - Parents/Daughter

This picture book illustrates the labile sensitivity of a child. Sitting in front of the mirror in her room, a little girl decides to run away from home because no one will listen to her. The steps and stubborn ideas that must be taken when running away are revealed in each subsequent picture, passing through a long landscape into the deep dark forest. Sparse lines and subdued watercolors skillfully suggest the loneliness of the wilderness in which the child becomes lost and in desparation calls for her mother. When the full moon rises, Papa finds his child and carries her home again. (4+) ☼

France

112
Albaut, Corinne (text)
Ceccarelli, Serge (illus.)
Comptines á croquer
(Counting Verses to Nibble On)
Arles: Actes Sud Junior, 1995. 64pp
ISBN 2-7427-0733-6

113
Albaut, Corinne (text)
Boucher, Michel (ill.)
Comptines pour le temps de Noël
(Counting Verses for the Christmas Season)
Arles: Actes Sud Junior, 1995. 64pp
ISBN 7427-0732-8
Counting - Poems - Wordplay

The publishers have launched their new series for young children with two treats: counting rhymes that melt on the tongue, ring in the ear and are easy to learn. The lovely illustrations often put the cheery nonsensical wordplay on words in astoundingly inventive scenes. To be read aloud, looked out, recited and continued. (3+)

114
Baronian, Jean-Baptiste (text)
Truus (illus.)
Polichon (Proper Name)
Paris: Grasset Jeunesse, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 2-246-5471-6
Dog - Sheep - Seasons

Polichon is a shepherd dog who cares for his own herd of sheep. One sees him busy with his tasks throughout the year. This picture book of collages made with torn paper of various textures and coarse material is seemingly simple and broad, but the details, in the animal faces and gestures, are filled with astounding emotional expressiveness. The haptic quality of the collages may also motivate young readers to undertake such creations of their own. The novelist and fantasy writer Baronian contributed the ingenuous verses. (3+) ☼

115
Binder, Jean (text/illus.)
Pipo et Sifflet sont des Cobayes
(Pipo and Sifflet are Guinea Pigs)
Paris: Archimède/ L'École des Loisirs, 1995. 38pp
ISBN 2-211-02948-5
Guinea pigs/Pets - Pets/Guidebook - Adventure

This first picture book by the well-known Zurich illustrator Jean Binder, is an adventure story of runaway guinea pigs with an original punch line, and illustrated in his usual wood-cut style scratchboard technique. He employs the guinea pigs ground-level perspective to show how the human sphere towers above it and can seem threatening. Lovers of this house pet will find useful tips in the appendix about care, food and birthing habits. (5+)

116
Bon, François (text)
Dans la ville invisible
(In the Invisible City)
Paris: Gallimard, 1995. 124pp
ISBN 2-07-057955-7
Reading - Reality/Unreality

Home alone in an apartment on the 14th floor, oscillating between dream and reality for five days and nights, the protagonist, an introverted teenage boy, goes through a phase of time-unbounded hallucinations. He had buried himself in a book of old legends, leaving them only for a nightly round through the high-rise building, where he experiences unreal encounters. The dividing line between the fictitious world of books and imagination and the concrete reality has completely disappeared. Everything seems equally real. In short, intervening chapters other narrators (the doorman, his stepfather, a friend) have their say. The novel weaves fantasy, lyricism and surrealism with a pinch of humor into a piece of high-level literature, equally suited for adults. (15+)
Prix Totem 1995 du meilleur roman

117
Boudet, Robert (Text)
Daniau, Marc (Ill.)
Coups de théâtre
(Effects of Theater)
Toulouse: Milan, 1995.150pp
ISBN 2-84113-160-2
Theatre play - Self-experience - Group solidarity - First love - Intercultural understanding - Violence

A theatre group is established at a school and begins to rehearse. The peppy novel convincingly conveys the increasing fascination of the group with the play. The young reader will be able to identify with them easily. They speak his jargon and have the same daily problems - friendship, first love, puberty, complexes and self-experience, as well as cultural barriers with foreign-born classmates and an unsettling experience with youth violence. This book is part of the »Mille Passions« series, which covers a wide spectrum of themes, which young people are known to find interesting. Even notorious non-readers will find these up-to-date books to their taste (12+) ✧

118
Brun-Cosme, Nadine (text)
Boucher, Michel (illus.)
La maison des trains
(The House of the Trains)
Paris: Ipomée, 1995. 54pp
ISBN 2-226-07055-9
Friendship - Loneliness - Train

From a distant hill, across the snowy landscape broken only by the railway tracks a young boy watches the signal house. He is at once curious and fearful of the mysterious inhabitants. The little girl behind the window sees him. She cannot open it as long as the father is away. The children get to know each other only very gradually. Loneliness and fear lay upon their souls like the snow blankets the countryside. The discreet elegance of the illustrations leave considerable empty space for the cold winter. Suddenly, like an explosion, the steam engine breaks into the numbness, the graphic peak of the book. (9+)

119
Combesque, Marie Agnès (text)
Gibrat, Jean-Pierre (illus.)
Drogue: Aux deux bouts de la chaîne
(At Both Ends of the Chain)
Paris: Syros, 1995. [112pp]
(J'accuse)
Drugs - Mafia - Crime - Poverty

This educational book on the topic of »drugs« is divided into three sections. In the middle section a documentary report gives an overview of the world-wide net of plantations and processing, organizations of the drug cartel, business and money-washing, users and their street crime. Two fictitious stories before and after this documentary section show the fate of the weakest members of this chain - at the beginning, the Columbian farmers who are forced to plant cannabis, and at the other end, the young drug addicts in Paris who waste away between shots. The very concrete approach to this topic is food for thought, not only for young readers. (12+)

120
Douzou, Olivier (text)
Lejonc, Régis (Illus.)
Tour de manège
(Merry-go-round Ride)
Rodez: Rouergue, 1995. [44pp]
ISBN 2-84156-006-6
Merry-go-round - Enchantment - World travel - Old age

The flyleaves of this picture book show sketches of old wooden merry-go-rounds from the museum of fairs in Paris. The double-paged pictures tell the story of two children who loose track of time in the endless circular rides. The perspective from the merry-go-round is enchanting. From the small circle the children fly out onto a trip around the world. The text coils and rolls with the rhythm of the rounds as an eternally repeated refrain from page to page. The children grow imperceptibly from one round to the next. When all their tickets are gone, they are old people. Once again they buy tickets. (5+) ✿

121
Dubost, Jean-Pascal (text)
Melinette, Martine (illus.)
Les quatre - chemins
(Detours)
Le Chambon-sur-Lignon:
Cheyne Éditeur, 1995. [43pp]
(Poèmes à grandir)
ISBN 2-903705-87-9
Poetry - School holidays - Auvergne - Grandparents

There is a consistent meticulousness in the volumes of this series. High-quality paper, rasberry colored lettering and dark blue graphics blend together to make a bibliophilic edition that will also provide young readers aesthetic pleasures.

The poems reflect the now past magic of the long summer holidays with the grandparents. The second part is then dedicated to the now widowed grandmother whose loneliness is tenderly and painfully felt from the child's perspective. Using the face and hands of a clock, the illustrations play with the basic theme of time's inevitable progress. (12+)

Romance Languages

122
Guyennon-Duchêne, Claudie (text/illus.)
Adéwi Komé, la nuit
(Adéwi Komé, at Night)
Orange: Grandir, 1994. [40pp]
ISBN 2-84166-005-2
Africa/Travel - Togo - Diary - Foreignness
The idiosyncratic southern France publishing house has specialized in graphically unusual artistic books. This African diary, too, rests on its exceptional design. Strongly impressed with her stay in Togo, a young artist rendered this into expressively painted sketches of effusive colorfulness, in which strongly repainted Polaroid photos and a rudimentary text composed of keywords are inserted. The visual immediacy with which the fascinating and often unsettling experiences are outlined will appeal to young readers. (12+) ✧

123
Judenne, Roger
Une vie à tout prix
(Life at Any Cost)
Paris: Rageot-Editeur, 1994. 156pp
ISBN 2-7002-0463-8
Kidney transplantation - Donor organs/Black market - Affluence - Third world - Slum children - Hippocratic oath
How the fates of two individuals coincide without meeting is narrated here in alternation. Melanie lives in France and has an incurable kidney disease. To save her life her parents bring her to a clinic in Bogota where organ transplantations are carried out. Adriano is an orphan who struggles to survive in the slums of Bogota. He is snatched away in a car and taken to a clinic where one of his kidneys is removed. Then he is sent back to the streets again. The shocking facts in this story are revealed without embellishment. A short documentary appendix deals with the medical and ethical issues involved. (13+)
Prix du Roman de Jeunesse (for the manuscript) 1994

124
Muscat, Bruno (text)
Besson, Jean-Louis (illus.)
Les secrets d'une ville
(The Secrets of a City)
Paris: Bayard, 1995. 46pp
ISBN 2-227-70-242-7
Paris/Guide - Big City/Life style
From early morning until nightfall Madame Pinson travels through Paris with her young charges. In double-paged illustrations thousands of humorously drawn details show how people in the big city live and work, how traffic and commerce are organized. A city plan helps provide an overview. With a »find-the-figure« game, the reader is encouraged to look for people with certain names and professions in the teeming crowds of the big city. In this way the city of a million inhabitants loses its anonymity and becomes an accessible living space. Highly recommendable for foreign language instruction. (10+) ☼

125
Pelton (text/illus.)
Pour faire un ours bleu, choisir un beau lion...
(To Make a Blue Bear, take One Beautiful Lion...)
Paris: Le sourire qui mord, 1995. [72pp]
ISBN 2-86-434-057-7
Bear
This first picture book by Eric Peltier is somewhat irritating at first glance because the pictures make a mockery of the text. When the story tells of a well-behaved, polite bear, the pictures present a lazy bear and rowdy bear. Children will soon have fun with this game of opposites in the alternating text and picture and will continue the story further. At first glance the brightly colored illustrations are terse and self-evident, but upon closer viewing reveal amusing details and often fascinating perspectives. (5+)

Romance Languages

☺ Special Mention

126
Piquemal, Michel (select.)
Vautier, Mireille (illus.)
Paroles de fraternité
(Words of Fraternity)
Paris: Albin Michel, 1996. 64pp
ISBN 2-226-07135-0
Fraternity - Ethics - Anthology

To share, to give, to stand together - these are synomyms for fraternity or brotherhood. Saint-Exupéry said it with an image: we must throw a ladder out into the night. Abbé Pierre, father figure for all the homeless, has taken as the motto for his life: remember to love! All the authors who are represented in this anthology know of the mobilizing power of fraternity from a deep human experience. Whether Epiket, Tolstoy, Georges Brassens - they all express with a passion their dedication to fellow man in an impressive, personal style. Their words are not merely abstract appeals, but suggest possibilities for practicing the ideas of fraternity. That makes this collection of text so seducingly convincing. It can be a vade mecum for one's own life. The illustrations, done in the style of art brut, corresponding perfectly to the spirit and immediate appellative character of the texts. Reduced to their simplest form as heads, the figures have stripped off everything that would prevent an encounter with their brothers. Their ability to smile is as convincing as the expressivness of the texts. And the vivid, flat/broadly applied colors correspond to the message of the words. The sources of the text are given in an bibliographic appendix. This series also contains other recommendable anthologies. (12+) ◇

127
Poncelet, Béatrice (text/illus.)
Chut ! Elle lit.
(Shhh! She Is Reading)
Paris: Seuil Jeunesse, 1995. 36pp
ISBN 2-02-022176-4
Mother/Child - Reading - Disturbances - Tenderness

Two pairs of children's eyes peer out of the darkness - codes for the point of view from which the story is to be experienced. The children's mother has buried herself in soft pillows near the mellow light of her lamp, hoping for a quiet hour of reading. Suddenly a zooming toy grasshopper and a picturebook are pushed to the foreground. They belong to the sons, who pester their mother, demanding her affection. The cool, dark tones give way to warm, lighter colors and at last she enfolds all the children in her arms. In this suble portrayal of childlike perceptions, the artist has broken with all conventional techniques of picture book illustration. She works with an assembly of elements which can only be grasped with associative reading and encoding. (10+)

128
Ponti, Claude (text/illus.)
Tromboline et Foulbazar: Les Masques
(Tromboline and Foulbazar: The masks)
Paris: L'École des Loisirs, 1995. 20pp
ISBN 2-211-031-77-3
Chicks - Masks - Fear - Fun

The well-known illustrator presents an attractive series for small children in small format. Reduced to a few funny effects, the graphic economy of the story develops its own sophistication. With self-made masks two little merry chicks take pleasure in frightening each other. And the masks are so well done that they are even frightened of themselves. (3+)

129
Royer, Alain (text)
Carpentier, Georges (text)
de Seynes, Sophie (illus.)
La Résurrection
(The Resurrection)
Paris: Mango, 1995. [28pp]
(Autre regard)
ISBN 2-7404-04330-6
Bible - Jesus - Jerusalem - Last Supper - Resurrection

This new series is intended to provide little children with their first encounter with Biblical stories. The idea is correspondingly clear-cut: the easily understandable texts are kept short in comparison with the space given over to the illustrations which portray Biblical scenes in transparent watercolors. The faces are drawn with pen strokes, and showing lively real-life mimics. The colors and localized details of the Mediterranean world are carefully chosen, stimulating a closer look. This is also a suitable book for reading aloud and re-telling. (3+) ○

130
Soupault, Ré et Philippe (text)
Yao, Li Zhong (illus.)
Dragon bleu, Dragon jaune
(Blue Dragon, Yellow Dragon)
Paris: Père Castor Flammarion, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 2-08-160146-X
Korea - Emperor - Painting

The emperor of Korea commanded the best painter of the kingdom to paint two dragons as symbols of power and peace for the throne room. After considerable preparation the painter merely threw a blue and a yellow brush stroke on the silk canvas. At first this »work« made the emperor very angry. But then he recognized that the dynamics of the two lines had fully captured the nature of the dragons. This tale is taken from a collection by the Soupaults which is still popular today , »Stories of Wonder from Five Continents.« The Korean illustrator has supplied illustrations in the traditional style of his homeland. He demonstrates for children that the variety of artistic means extends even to absolute reduction. (6+)

131
Vénuleth, Jacques (text)
Diet, Robert (illus.)
Les pierres du silence
(The Stones of Silence)
Paris: Hachette, 1995. 188pp
ISBN 2-01-321311-5
Israel - Jewish-Arab Conflict - Palestine - Intifada - Mutism - Diary

In a psychiatric clinic in Jerusalem a young girl begins to keep a diary. As a Palestinian from an Arabic village in Israel, and hence a citizen of Israel, who goes to a boarding school in Switzerland, she has had trouble to admit her own identity. After experiencing a violent act of revenge by Jewish soldiers against the Intifada during a visit to her village, she had fallen mute from the shock. The reader follows her painful process of healing and self-discovery in the course of her diary. This highly literary work of fiction enables a deeper understanding for a conflict-ridden chapter in contemporary history. (13+) ✧
Grand Prix du Livre pour la Jeunesse (for the manuscript) 1994

132
Weulersse, Odile (text)
Manaud, Jean-Luc (photos)
Aghali, berger du desert
(Aghali, Shepherd in the Desert)
Paris: Hatier, 1995. 62pp
ISBN 2-218-03022-5
Sahara Desert - Touareg

The life and customs of the Touareg caught between tradition and modern demands is presented here through a fictitious tale about a young shepherd boy. High-quality documentary photos accompany the text. In an appendix further ethnographic information and explanations are provided. This is a new addition to the well-received series »Pali Mali« on modern ethnography. (8+) ✧

Italy

133
Buongiorno, Teresa (text)
Nidasio, Grazia (illus.)
Olympos. Diario di una dea adolescente
(Olympos. Diary of an Adolescent Goddess)
Firenze: Salani, 1995. 231pp
(Gl'Istrici; Istrice Sapiens; 95)
ISBN 88-7782-382-8
Greece/Classical Age - Mythology - Hebe - Growing up - Diary

Hebe, the daughter of Zeus and Hera and the goddess of youth, feels it is a burden to be condemned to eternal youth. The young girl tells here of her search for identity and of everyday life and various adventures on Olympus. The members of the extended divine family prove themselves to be very human, whimsical, cantankerous and moody. A decisive turn in Hebe's life comes when she falls in love with Heracles and becomes his wife. This entertaining story is told by Hebe herself in diary form, divided into 90 chapters which read like episodes of a mythological soap opera. (12+)

Romance Languages

134
Davico Bonino, Guido / Francesca Lazzarato (eds.)
Canottiere, Lorena / Sartoni, Lorenzo (illus.)
Il Girotondo degle Spiriti Allegri.
Fiabe di morte, santi e diavoli
(The Roundelay of Happy Spirits.
Tales of Death, Saints and Devils)
Milano: Mondadori, 1995. 142pp
(Tutto è fiabe)
ISBN 88-04-39879-5
Italy/Folk tales - Death - Devil - Demons - Saints
Traditional folk tales and legends from various regions of Italy have been gathered together in this collection and translated or retold in the modern vernacular. This book is one of a new series by the publisher Mondadori in which individual volumes group together stories by theme or geographical region, for example, tales about talking animals, tricksters and magicians, tales from Ireland or the tales of Native Americans. (8+) ✧

135
Dell'Oro, Erminia (text)
Mariniello, Cecco (illus.)
La pianta magica
(The Magic Plant)
Trieste: E. Elle, 1995. 66pp
(Le letture; 93)
ISBN 88-7068-751-1
Set in Eritrea, this is a story about a plant named Winta, which has magical powers. It can attract clouds and make the rain fall wherever water is especially needed. In the Spring of 1994 Winta is picked by an ignorant tourist and brought to Italy. A bird sets off to find it again. This book, a mixture of fairy tale, history and legends from Eritrea, is dedicated by the author to the children of this east African country as well as all the children who must endure the great sufferings of war. (9+) ✧

136
Gandolfi, Silvana (text)
Orecchia, Giulia (illus.)
Occhio al gatto!
(Beware of Cat!)
Firenze: Salani, 1995. 207pp
(Gl'Istrici; 100)
ISBN 88-7782-340-2
Venice - Cat - Odyssee - Detective story
It is surely no coincidence that Virgilio, the tom-cat, is named after Dante's guide through the underworld. This book views Venice, its canals, bridges and dark doorways, from a cat's perspective - along with the boy named Dante, who after imbibing a magical chocolate drink has power to see with the eyes of a cat. The boy becomes involved in a kidnapping and discovers the evil side of supposedly unsuspicious persons. Characteristic for this adventure story is the intrusion of phantasy elements in everyday life and the things behind the mask of appearances. (10+)

137
Lavatelli, Anna (text)
Zahradka, Mirek (illus.)
Il cannone Bum!
(The Cannon Boom!)
Casale Monferrato: Piemme, 1995. [64pp]
(Il battello a vapore; Serie bianca; 13)
ISBN 88-384-3413-1
War/Peace - Old age
At the end of the war Boom, the cannon, is put in mothballs. At first still a celebrity, it soon is forgotten. After a long time has passed, it is discovered again by a circus director and given a new, peaceable and merry-making function in it's old days. The story of Boom is a story against war, but also about old age and the often thoughtless manner of dealing with people and things that no longer seem to have any use. The cheerful color illustrations in mixed media are a highly appropriate complement to the text. (6+)

138
Lazzarato, Francesca (adapt.)
Galloni, Adelchi (illus.)
La novantanovesima moglie del re.
Fiabe e leggende della tradizione nigeriana
(The King's Ninety-ninth Wife. Traditional
Tales and Legends from Nigeria)
Milano: Mondadori, 1995. 79pp
(Fiabe Junior)
ISBN 88-04-39906-6
Nigeria/Tales - Nigeria/Legends

This is one of the titles of an exemplary paperback series which presents the tales, fables, and legends of various peoples and countries, providing the opportunity to look beyond one's own narrow (eurocentric) borders and discover and understand better foreign cultures. This volume is dedicated to the west African country of Nigeria, a land marked by the co-habitation of very different peoples, which has been in the public eye recently above all with negative headlines. Accompanied by colored illustrations, this volume collects myths of origins, animal tales and other brilliant short stories. In an appendix the reader will find supplemental information about Nigeria. (10+) ✧

☺ Special Mention

139
Montanari, Massimo (text)
Luzzati, Emanuele (illus.)
Il pentolino magico
(The Little Magic Pot)
Bari: Laterza, 1995. vii, 118pp
ISBN 88-420-4739-2
Food/History - Eating/History

The Grimms' fairy tale »The sweet porridge« prompted the author to write this stimulating and entertaining book which explores in 34 chapters the topics of food and eating, both of which have played a fundamental role in all cultures in all ages, whether in the creation myths, religious texts, cult rites, literature, in celebrations or in everyday life. Human history is in no small way a history of hunger and sacrifice, of surplus and of lust for eating. Massimo Montanari's texts offer a richly varied mixture of stories, documentation, myths, legends and historical accounts. The palette offers, among other things, stories of the tree of life, miracle stories from the Bible about the appearance of food and drink or the corn people myths of the Mayas. Furthermore other topics such as the land of Cockaigne, the discovery of the potato and the cocoa bean, table manners, seasonings and flavorings, beer and tortellini. It is remarkable how many connections and parallels in cultural history can be discovered. The book is enhanced by numerous colorful, vivid pictures in mixed media, primarily in pastel crayons and paper collages. The beginning of each chapter is graced with an original anthropomorphic initial letter. (12+) ✧

140
Piumini, Roberto
Denis del pane
(Denis of Bread)
Trieste: Einaudi Ragazzi, 1995. 232pp
(Narrativa; 39)
ISBN 88-7936-160-6

In the Middle Ages the mill considered the focal point of rural life since everyone had to go there sooner or later, even a child. When Denis, a nameless foundling, arrives there, the miller brothers Gustav and Francois Tabin agree to take him in. Denis's best friend is Freut, a mongrel dog, and together they have many adventures which shape his development as much as the bread sculptures, knights, and mysterious letters. The author skillfully develops the story to give a vivid picture of life during those times. (11+)

141
Stanisci, Andrea (text)
Ricci, Stefano (illus.)
Don Giovanni. Doppio giallo
(Don Giovanni. A double detective story)
Firenze: Salani, 1995. 119pp
(Gl'Istrici; Istrici della Ribalta; 96)
ISBN 88-7782-373-9
Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus - Reality/Fiction - Opera house - Detective story

Inspector Gustav and his assistant finally have a »real« case to solve. Signor Francesco, the main actor of Mozart's opera »Don Giovanni« has disappeared without a trace. During their investigations at the opera house the both discover strange parallels between the plot of the opera and the life of the singers. Reality and fiction are so interwoven that in the end they prove to be inseparable, and even the case remains shrouded in mysterious darkness. In the new series »Istrici della Ribalta« young readers become acquainted with the world classics of literature in a very unconventional manner. (12+)

142
Tamaro, Susanna (text)
Ross, Tony (illus.)
Il cerchio magico
(The Magic Circle)
Milano: Mondadori, 1995. 117pp
(Contemporanea)
ISBN 88-04-39613-X
Wolf's child - Forest - Threat - Destruction - Nature - Civilization

Like Romulus and Remus, Rick has been nursed by a she-wolf in the only space left open in a big city. This idyllic life takes an abrupt turning point when some men, greedy for wealth and without scruples, decide to cut down the unexplored wood, »il cerchio magico«. As a result Rick's mother, the she-wolf, is killed and the boy is forced to enter the aggressive world of human beings. Acting resolutely and with the help of some human friends and animals, Rick succeeds in saving the »cerchio magico«. With its well-constructed plot and well-drawn characters, the story's setting seems very realistic and plausible. (11+)

Portugal

143
Andersen, Hans Christian (text)
Bacelar, Manuela (illus.)
de Fonseca, Ribeiro (trans.)
A sereiazinha
(The Little Mermaid)
Porto: Afrontamento, 1995. 61pp
ISBN 972-36-0362-4
Fairy tale/Denmark

Andersen's fairy tale of the impossible love of the little mermaid, a princess, and the human boy, a prince, is rich on descriptions of colors and shapes. Similarly, Manuela Bacelar's double-paged illustrations achieve their full effect above all through the use of color and form. She captures the atmosphere of this tale with a wide range of green, blue and grey tones, soft lines, vague contours. And her pictures reflect the basically melancholy mood the dimly lit underwater world and the sombre seascape and coastal landscape. (8+)

144
Mimoso, Anabela (text)
Caetano, João (illus.)
Dona Bruxa Gorducha
(The Fat Witch)
Coimbra: Livraria Arnado, 1995. 32pp
(Colecção Barquinhos de papel)
ISBN 972-701-089-X

What does a witch do when she gets so fat that her broom can no longer carry her? She becomes inventive and sets everything in motion in order to conjure up a set of wings to solve her problem. But her efforts are in vain and so she has to set off for the Witch Congress by foot. To everyone's surprise, she is quite thin when she finally arrives there two years later. With humor and imagination this book describes the »daily life« of witches, which is full of exotic and bizarre problems from the point of view of any non-witch. The text is accompanied by full-paged, expressive illustrations (water color and line drawings) in broken blue and brown tones. (8+)

Romania

145
Săvulescu-Voudouris, Monica
Un alt glob, vă rog!
(A Different Globe, Please)
București: Ed. Ion Creangă, 1992. 70pp
ISBN 973-25-0330-0
Romania/Emigration - Holland/Immigration - Mother/Daughter - International politics

This book about the pain of living in emigration is dedicated to the children and young people who gave the impulse for the Revolution in Romania in 1989. In 1987, after enduring reprisals from the »Securitate« and the Romànian police, the author and her ten-year-old daughter emigrated to Holland. Săvulescu-Voudouris reports here on the first year in the shelter for refugees from the point of view of the child. The child experiences a new world which her past experiences have not prepared her to understand. Then there was her mother's serious depression, from which she only gradually recovered. This world, where everything familiar has lost its meaning, has an allegory in the old globe with which mother and daughter try to locate the sources of news they hear on television and where long outdated political entities are not to be found. (10+)

Spain

146
Andersen, Hans Christian (text)
Mestres, Apeles (illus.)
Roca y Roca, J. (trans.)
Cuentos
(Fairy Tales)
Madrid: Compañía Literaria, 1994. 355pp
ISBN 84-8213-009-9
(Facsimile ed. of the first edition: Barcelona: Biblioteca »Arte y Letras«, 1881)
Andersen, Hans Christian - Fairy Tales/Anthology

This beautifully bound facsimile edition contains a selection of twenty of Andersen's fairy tales illustrated by the famous Catalan artist Apel·les Mestres (1854-1936) with zinc etchings, full-paged wood-cuts and vignettes and borders. Although they date back to 1881, this work already portends that Mestres would be one of the most important representatives of the Spanish »Modernismo.« In this series the publisher has issued further facsimile editions such as Perrault's Tales and La Fontaine's Fables, both with illustrations by Gustave Doré. (8+)

147
Antoniorrobles
(pseud. of Robles Soler, Antonio) (text)
Peinador (illus.)
Rompetacones (Proper name)
Madrid: Siruela, 1994. 133pp
(Las Tres Edades; 32)
ISBN 84-7844-227-8
Boy/Girl - Everyday life - Fantasy - Adventure

This new edition of Antoniorrobles' (pseudonym of Antonio Robles Soler, 1895-1983) classic children's book, which first appeared in 1939, relates eight tales from the life of a boy names Botón Rompetacones and his sister Azulita. At the time of its first publication it was considered quite innovative, and even today will surprise its readers with a special humor bordering on the absurd, with its interweaving of everyday events and fairy-tale like fantasy elements and adventures. This edition is also noteworthy for its meticulous, attractively designed format with the original illustrations by Peinador. (10+)

148
Atxaga, Bernardo (text)
Valverde, Mikel (illus.)
Atxaga, Bernardo (transl.)
Shola y los leones
(Shola and the Lions)
Madrid: SM, 1995. 75pp
(El Barco de Vapor; Serie Oro; Azul; 5)
ISBN 84-348-4546-6
Dog - Nature - Identity crisis <Motif>

Shola, easy-going little dog lady, is positively convinced that she is in truth a lion, »the king of the wilderness,« who »can kill his enemies even with his last heartbeat.« Missing the proper signs of respect from her master, Shola sets all her energy to proving her wild nature, but must finally admit to herself that she cannot deny her true character. Bernardo Atxaga's simple, humorous story about this engaging impostor is ideally matched by Mikel Valverde's water-colored line drawings. (8+) ○

149
Cano, Carles (text)
Giménez, Paco (illus.)
¿En qué se diferencian el blanco y el negro?
(What is the Difference between White and Black?)
Barcelona: Aura Comunicación, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 84-87711-88-X
White <color> - Black <color> - Theory of Color

Following up the previous titles by the team Cano and Giménez »¿En qué se diferencian una selva y un abecedario?« and »¿En qué se diferencian el mar y un elefante?«, this book deals with the seemingly insignificant colors of white and black. It poses the question what if they didn't exist and then points out their fundamental significance and the fact that they complement each other in a phantastic way.

Clever and surprising examples from everyday life, from painting, literature and the animal kingdom give proof to their claims. The design and the imaginative illustrations as well as the unusual use of the horizontal format for picture and text make this a very special book. (9+)

150
Cano, Carles (text)
Gusti (illus.)
¡Te pillé, Caperucita!
(Little Red Riding Hood, I've Got You)
Madrid: Bruño, 1995. 121pp
(Colección Altamar; Serie Teatro; 90)
ISBN 84-216-2572-1
Fairy tale/Parody - Theater - Travesty

Using the technique of a play within a play, this drama works the figures and plots from famous fairy tales against the grain by letting the actors spontaneously change their roles. Little Red Riding Hood is a cheeky little brat, Puss-in-Boots turns out to be an ordinary bandit, one of the Three Pigs changes into the revenger of his butchered and sausaged brother. Parody and travesty are heightened even more between the acts by »advertising« in which still other fairy-tale figures sing the praises of imaginary products. A fast-paced, hilarious piece of nonsense, this work won the prestigious Premio Lazarillo in 1994. (11+)

☺ Special Mention

151
Gándara, Alejandro
Nunca seré como te quiero
(I'll Never Be Like I Want You to Be)
Madrid: SM, 1995. 146 pp
(Gran Angular; 140)
ISBN 84-348-4673-X
Social status - Alcoholism - First love

Seventeen-year-old Jacobo lives alone with his father in the waterfront district of Santander, a town in northern Spain. His mother abandoned the family twelve years before; his father, a former teacher, works as a fisherman and struggles with alcoholism. When Jacobo enters high school, he must go every day »to the other side,« to the old district of town, the well-to-do neighbourhood of Santander. Removed from his familiar surroundings, he must now adjust to a new setting which he feels to be strange and at times even threatening. Along with these difficulties, he is preoccupied with his father's illness and his love for Christine, a girl in his school. Although the author employs certain themes and elements typical of a young adult novel, the book does not contain the usual images and elements of plot. The characters seem very much real and convincing, the problems tangible, and the reader is given no easy solutions. The boy's conflicts, his vacillating reactions to his father's decline and the fascination of his first romance are very plausible. The convincing portrayal of the city, the waterfront, and life near the sea round out this novel, and keep the reader turning the pages to the very end. (14+)

152
Hauff, Wilhelm (text)
Cañas Cortázar, Alicia (illus.)
Bombín Izquierdo, Elena (trans.)
Cuentos completos
(The Complete Tales)
Madrid: Anaya, 1994. 285pp
ISBN 84-207-6285-7
Hauff, Wilhelm/Tales

This is the first time that a complete edition of the Hauff tales has been published in Spanish. This large-sized book has been excellently designed from paper to printing quality. Alicia Cañas has very fittingly reproduced the mood of the texts in her illustrations. Exotic and bizarre figures, animals, fabulous creatures populate the scenes, moving about within magical landscapes and meticulously designed interiors. Whether full-paged color illustrations or small pencil vignettes, there is always something new for the viewer to discover. (6+)

Romance Languages

153
Martínez Gil, Fernando
El verano de la linterna mágica
(The Summer of the Laterna Magica)
Madrid: Alfaguara, 1995. 166pp
ISBN 84-204-4908-3
Spain/1974 - Spain/16th century - Humanism - Inquisition

This novel has two plots which are narrated on the one hand by a boy who discovers an old manuscript and a Laterna Magica hidden in the cellar of a house and on the other hand by a young man who invented this apparatus. Both stories are set in Toledo - in 1974 and in the middle of the 16th century - and are connected together by the young first-person narrator. The passages of the history tale are of particular interest due to the lively and suspenseful portrayal of life in Spain after the expulsion or forced Christianization of the Jews, a period strongly influenced by humanistic ideals but also the first signs of the Inquisition. (12+)

☺ Special Mention

154
Meléndez, Francisco (text/illus.)
Núñez, Justo (text/illus.)
Aventuras de Mr. Boisset.
Tomi-Kikansha. (Continuación de las aventuras de Mr. Boisset)
(The adventures of Mr. Boisset.
Tomi-Kikansha. The Continued Adventures of Mr. Boisset)
Zaragoza: La Biblioteca de Lastanosa, 1995. [60pp]
ISBN 84-606-2132-4
Japan/19th century - Invention - Steam locomotive - Travel

The steam locomotive Tomi, the creation of the inventor genius Mr. Boisset - who landed in Japan after many adventurous travels - and his assistant Omuro, finds itself alone one day and sets off to discover the world. Tomi's travels are a wondrous journey through 19th century Japan, and end finally after crossing the ocean in California. Just like the naive, inexperienced locomotive, the reader will also be captivated by the fascination and peculiarities of Japanese life. Encounters with apes, washerwomen, a monk, a feudal lord and his samurai, a travelling Bunraku puppet theater, etc. join to make a many-facetted image. Francisco Meléndez, inspired to write this book during a study tour, has succeeded here in creating an exceptional story. Funny, richly detailed, imaginative pictures, different types of paper and illustration techniques, creatively used Japanese characters and a meticulously printed text form an original, artistically remarkable book that will appeal to youth and to adults. (14+) ✧

155
O'Callaghan i Duch, Elena (text)
Comella, Àngels (illus.)
Equipo Edebé (trans.)
Un gato muy poco gato
(A very Uncat-like Cat)
Barcelona: Edebé, 1995. [32pp]
(Tren azul; 22)
ISBN 84-236-3770-0
(Orig. ed. in Catalan from same publisher)
Cat - Identity - Role - Dog

A cat named Felipe finds a new home with the boy Gregorio. Strangely enough, Felipe doesn't like fish, runs away from birds and miaus loudly when strangers come to the door. In short, it is quite clear that he considers himself a dog. This humorous story is excellently matched with colored drawings. Particularly striking is the consistent use of typography as a means of artistic expression. Different type faces and sizes express, for example, surprise or emphasis, and the text is placed on the page - sometimes in curves or waves - in such a way that it is an integral element of the illustrations. (6+) ○

156
Rodríguez Almodóvar, Antonio (text)
Meléndez, Francisco (illus.)
Animales de aventura
(Adventure Animals)
Madrid: Altea, 1995. 64pp.
(El viaje imaginario)
ISBN 84-372-2196-X
Animal/Protagonist

This large-scale, richly illustrated book offers young readers a short, entertaining glimpse into a number of classics of children's literature, including several books written for adults, but also read by younger readers. The special uniting element is that in each story a literary animal figure is the main character, as for example, Pinocchio's companion, the cricket, or the swordfish in Hemingway's »The Old Man and the Sea.« The texts have been illustrated by Meléndez's bizarre, and at times very original interpretations. Short portraits of the authors are included in an appendix. (12+)

Spain (Catalan)

157
Fuster, Joan (adapt.)
Echevarría, Pablo (illus.)
El flautista encantat
(The Enchanting Flute Player)
Barcelona: Abadia de Montserrat, 1995. [24pp]
(Llibres del sol i de la lluna; 71)
ISBN 84-7826-608-9
Pied Piper of Hamelin
The illustrations to this adaption of the famous story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin do not attempt to present a historicized or folkloric version of the events. Aside from a few accessories, the illustrations are reduced to portraying the main characters. The people and the rats, clothed in bizarre costumes, are given features and gestures which lend tempo and drama to the course of the story. This portrayal concentrates above all on form and line, when the illustrator uses colors, particularly yellow and brown tones, it is done only sparingly. (8+)

158
Ramon, Estrella
Ptolemeu, el cuinetes
(Ptolemeu, the Cook)
Barcelona: La Galera, 1995. 95pp
(el corsari; 2)
ISBN 84-246-8202-5
Manliness - Social roles - Sex roles - Self-identity
Ptolemeu feels as if a thunderbolt struck him when his favorite aunt gives him a »doll's kitchen« as a birthday present. What will all his friends think?! Only gradually does it dawn on him that this is a practical camper's kit and that cooking can be fun. This is a witty book about the everyday life of an eleven-year-old and his difficulties in coping with his wounded manliness. It is an original and entertaining effort to poke fun at the role models already established in the minds of children. (9+)

159
Rubio, Gabriela (text/illus.)
Bzzz...
Barcelona: El Arca de Junior,
1995. 30pp
(Centpeus; 18)
ISBN 84-478-0247-7
Cat - Disturbance - Fly
The worst things happen on Mondays. This is also true for a cat who is disturbed by an ordinary housefly while occuppied with her peaceful do-nothing. While her companion sleeps on calmly, this cat lives through an acoustic nightmare that nearly drives her crazy. Gabriela Rubio uses elements of comic strips and skillfully employs typography as a means of design and narration. Her witty picture book comes alive through the colored drawings and the considerable dynamic which makes the portrayal nearly grotesque. (5+)

Switzerland (French)

☺ Special Mention

160
Madeleine-Perdrillat, Alain (text)
Rodari, Florian (art comp.)
Un dimanche avec Cézanne
(A Sunday with Cézanne)
Genève: Skira, 1995, 56pp
(Un Dimanche avec...)
ISBN 2-605-00284-5
Cézanne/Biography - Painting
Cézanne - Painting - Biography - Aix-en-Provence - Sainte-Victoire
The task of leading children to appreciate art resembles that of the mountain guide. He choses the route, i.e. the language, that children will understand. But the »mountain«, art, remains independent of the route. Using this motto, the art historian Florian Rodari has created the series »A Sunday with...« together with the publishing house Skira, a specialist in exquisite art-books. In this book Cezanne takes the child-reader on a long walk

through, showing all his favorite places. The path ends in the »great studio«, outside in nature, vis á vis his favorite motif, the mountain of Sainte-Victoire. Along the way Cézanne addresses his young audience in a slow, impressive monologue about ways of seeing, about colors and form, about his life, his studies in the Louvre, his friends, fellow painters and writers, his wife and her manner of modelling for him. His manner of speech is simple, reduced to the essentials and vivid. The words encourage reflection and the first attempts at seeing from an artist's point of view. The illustrative material, a cross-section of Cézanne's oeuvre, is nestled with the text so that additional captions are not needed. Several photos and documents, a brief biography and a map of Aix and surroundings round out this walk through Cézanne's world of art. (12+)

161
Begag, Azouz (text)
Louis, Catherine (illus.)
Ma mère est devenue une étoile
(My Mother is Now a Star)
Genève: La Joie de Lire, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 2-88258-065-7
Death - Mother - Burial - Father/Child
During the requiem for the mother, a father holds his child in his arms. They try to comfort each other. The text lets the child speak in the first person about what is happening in the church, about the impossibility of understanding the absoluteness of leave-taking and the roguish hope of making it all reversible. It is illustrated with abstract colors and color collages dominated by the blue and brown tones of religious panels and stained glass windows. A picture book that is only gradually accessible, and which deserves to be looked at and explained to a child over and over again. (6+)

Latin America

Argentina (Spanish)

162
Montes, Graciela
Historia de un amor exagerado
(The History of an Exaggerated Love)
Buenos Aires: Colihue, 1995. 65pp
(Libros del malabarista)
ISBN 950-581-525-5
First love
This brief story deals with a gigantic bouquet of flowers, happiness and sadness, a lively correspondence and the largest love letter the world has ever seen. It is the story of two children whose moving and inspiring love story is followed by some with pleasure and benevolence, while others criticize it as »un-childlike« and boundlessly exaggerated. With a sure feel for mood and sentiment as well as a sense of poetry and nuances, Graciela Montes describes the magic and uniqueness of love, its simplicity and absoluteness. (10+)

163
Suez, Perla (text)
Rojas, Mara (illus.)
El árbol de los flecos
(The Tree of Scraps)
Buenos Aires: Sudamericana, 1995. 54pp
(Colección Pan flauta; 32)
ISBN 950-07-1018-8
Jews/Stories
This is a collection of five traditional Jewish stories which the author heard from her parents. They belong to the rich culture of orally transmitted story-telling among the East European and Oriental Jews. The stories are set in different epochs and in different places, such as Russia or Turkey. The fascination of these stories, reduced to their essential components, lays in the austerity of the language. The plain, almost reticent style is excellently matched in the wood-cut style black-and-white illustrations. (12+) ✧

Romance Languages

Brazil (Portuguese)

164
Azevedo, Ricardo (text/illus.)
Pobre corintiano careca
(Poor, Bald »Corinthians« Fan)
São Paulo: Melhoramentos, 1995. 104pp
(Biblioteca Juvenil)
ISBN 85-06-02190-1
City life - Poverty - Family - Fatherlessness
The thirteen-year-old José Pedro lives with his mother in poverty bordering on misery in São Paulo. At the center of his life are the soccer club »Corinthians« and Camila, the girl he is equally crazy about. He is burdened by the lack of a father and tries to explain or justify it by inventing stories in which reality keeps getting mixed up with his dreams and longings. The author succeeds in writing a sensitive, well-developed narrative about this young protagonist's everyday life, feelings and family problems. (12+)

165
Lago, Angela (text/illus.)
O personagem encalhado
(The Person Who Got Caught)
Belo Horizonte: Lê, 1995. [24pp]
(O siso do riso)
no ISBN
Gnome - Book - Trap
In this small-sized, nearly textless book with grey-and-white double-paged illustrations the space between the two covers is the scene of an ingenious episode. A little, jaunty spindly man - a sort of gnome - accidentally lands in a story, slips down into centerfold and finds himself trapped, only able to get out again with extraordinary exertion. Angela Lago has skillfully worked this original, unspectacular idea into a highly entertaining picture book. (4+) ☺

☺ Special Mention

166
Mello, Roger (text/illus.)
Uma história do boto vermelho
(A Story of the Red Porpoise)
Rio de Janeiro: Salamandra, 1995. 63pp
ISBN 85-281-0091-X
Brazil/Amazonia - Porpoise/Transformation/Man - Hunting - Myth/Loss
This story, which is set on a river and in a small village in a remote region of Amazonia, tells of a red porpoise who has the power to turn himself into a young man at certain times. This creature, whose legendary existence captures the imagination of the village inhabitants but also feeds their hunting instinct, makes the acquaintance of the young girl Joana. Their affection for each other grows, but for two reasons can have no future. On the one hand, neither one of them can completely and permanently overcome the boundaries of their worlds, i.e. their different elements; and on the other hand, Joana can only just barely save the porpoise from the death which her people plan for him. So in the end he leaves his familiar habitat and retreats to distant waters. In a poetic manner and changing narrative patterns, in accord with the peaceful course of life at the river or the dramatic turns of plot, this story unites old traditional stories with a story of our own times. In a simple and subtle manner this story tells how our world becomes ever poorer and more prosaic through man's dominance. There is no longer room for the extraordinary, the magical. It becomes surpressed, surviving only in the world of legends and myths. (11+)

167
Orthof, Sylvia (text)
Bilau (illus.)
Meus vários quinze anos
(My Fifteen-Year-Periods)
São Paulo: FTD, 1995. 64pp
(Cara-metade)
ISBN 85-322-1476-2
Woman - Old age - Social role
Violeta, a 75-year-old woman from Rio de Janeiro, can look back on an active life. Her memoir is divided into five chapters, each of which covering a fifteen year period. Violeta's memories include

happiness and disappointment, love, friendship, good-byes and losses, each followed in spite of it all by a new beginning. With a light humorous touch this book summarizes the life of a woman full of zest and ripened by life's experience, thereby making common clichés about marriage and old age questionable. (12+)

168
Ziraldo
Vito Grandam. Uma história de vôos
(Vito Grandam. A Story of Flights)
São Paulo: Melhoramentos, 1995. 142pp
ISBN 85-06-021188-X
Boy/Uncle - Family
At the center of this first-person narrative by a 17-year-old boy is Vito Grandam, his uncle, whom he greatly admires and worships like a hero, though he is only a few years older. In different episodes the life story of the narrator is assembled piece by piece: adventures he shares with his uncle, family circumstances and difficulties, the separation of his parents, life with his father, all his hopes and dreams. The author, an internationally known illustrator, draws here a very vivid and sensitive portrait of a boy coming of age. (12+)

Columbia (Spanish)

169
León Zamora, Aníbal Eduardo (text)
Meza B., Mariluz (illus.)
Sueño Aymara
(An Aymará Dream)
[Medellín]: Universidad Pontificia
Bolivariana, 1995. 247pp
ISBN 770912798-3
Peru - Andean Highlands/Everyday life - Village life - Aymará/Everyday life
Set in a small village in the Peruvian Andes, this story focusses on a group of children belonging to the Aymará people, who live still today in the highlands of Peru, Bolivia and northern Chile. Described from the perspective of the boy, Basilio, this story of village life connects the past and the present in many short chapters. In this way the Peruvian author succeeds in creating a lively and authentic picture of everyday life of the Aymará, their traditions, legends, their religion and the way they see and understand the world about them. (12+) ✧

Venezuela (Spanish)

170
Rivas, Ivonne (text)
Savino, Irene (illus.)
El dueño de la luz
(The Lord of Light)
Caracas: Ekaré, 1995. [36pp]
ISBN 980-257-104-0
Venezuela/Warrau/Legend - Light - Creation myth
This book is based on a legend of the Warao, a tribe living in the area of the Orinoco Delta. It tells how light was given to the people who had lived in darkness and how it came about that the sun and the moon »circle the earth.« The short text is very poetic and forms a highly successful whole with the unusual illustrations. In these atmospheric pictures the focus is not on people but rather on the real protagonists of the story, darkness and lightness, night and day, reflected light, mirror images and water as the living space of the Warran. (8+) ✧

171
Tabuas, Mireya (text)
Keller, Cristina (illus.)
Gato Encerrado
(The Locked-up Cat)
Caracas: Monte Avila, 1995. 64pp
(Primera Dimensión; Serie azul)
ISBN 980-01-0880-7
Cat - Disappearance - Search
A young boy tries to find out what has happened to the cat that had always visited him on Mondays until two weeks ago. He goes about the task like a real detective, making up a list of the suspects and making inquiries by the rest of the residents in the building. Surprisingly, everyone of them is also missing a cat. It turns out to be the very same cat, which is found at last, unharmed, with seven newborn kittens. This clearly structured story is told by the main character in a humorous, breezy manner. (8+) ○

Romance Languages

North America

Canada (French)

172
Brousseau, Linda (text)
Maigné, Claire (illus.)
Ce n'est pas de ma faute !
(It's Not My Fault)
Québec: Editions Pierre Tisseyre, 1994. 102pp
ISBN 2-89051-556-7
Childhood - Traumatic experience - Guilt feeling

Luc feels the death of his mother is his fault and enjoys playing the role of the failure. In order to clearly portray this dangerous mental burden, the narrator invents a mysterious shrinking illness which causes Luc to lose on size every day. The love of his younger sister and an act of consciously willed liberation finally help to loosen his mental block. A gripping read which sensitizes the reader to mental problems. (9+)

173
Dubé, Pierrette (text)
Yayo (illus.)
Au lit, princesse Emilie!
(Off to Bed, Princess Emily!)
St-Hubert (Qc): Raton Laveur,1995. 24 pp
ISBN 2-920660-36-5
Princess - Castle - Race - Bedtime

The night for night battle to get the recalcitrant child to go to bed may be easier to deal with after reading this picture book together. Emily mobilizes the vast staff of the castle for the hopeless task of putting her to bed. From the dungeon to the highest tower rooms, the runaway princess has them all hot on her heels. The droll caricaturist illustrations and rhythmic text with refrain will soon make this book an essential part of the going-to-bed ritual of the youngest readers. (8+) ☼

174
Galouchko, Annouchka Gravel (text/illus.)
Shô et les Dragons d'Eau
(Shô and the Demons of the Deep)
(Also published in Engl.)
Toronto: Annick, 1995. [32pp]
ISBN 1-55037-399-4 (fr); 1-55037-398-6 (engl.)
Japan/Folktale - Kite - Nightmare - Sea monster - Spirituality

This poetic tale about the invention of the Japanese kite is visually rendered here in bright colors with rich ornamentation. Using the style of naive painting the illustrator creates a fairy-tale transformation of the motifs of classical Japanese woodcuts. Children who of course cannot yet appreciate the artistic and folkloristic allusions will be fascinated by the many small anecdotal details of these full-paged pictures. (6+)

Prix du Gouverneur Général pour les illustrations, 1995

175
Gervais, Jean (text)
D 'Amour, Henri-Julien (illus.)
La Décision de Cathou
(Cathou Makes a Decision)
Montréal: Boréal, 1995. 46pp
(Collection Dominique)
ISBN 2-89052-677-1
Alcoholism - Mother/Daughter - Advice

As an child psychologist the author is well-acquainted with the sufferings of children who have problems with themselves and their surroundings. His books are the result of extensive research and discussions with nine- to twelve-year-olds. They offer practical guidance through short stories based on real situations that show paths of self-help.
In the appendix parents and educators will find precise and sound advice. This is a new genre of youth literature which corresponds to the real needs of modern-day children and youth. (9-12)

176
Lemieux, Jean
Le trésor de Brion
(The Treasure of Brion)
Montréal: Québec/Amérique Jeunesse, 1995. 388pp
ISBN 2-89037-686-9
Treasure hunt - First love - Puberty - Friendship - Self-discovery

This is a superb young adult novel that goes far beyond adventure and treasure hunting. The protagonist, a young boy, goes through a painful process of breaking away from his parents, experiences happiness and insecurity in his first romance, finds his own sense of responsibility in lonely reflections on sexuality and faithfulness, and sets his own life's goals. This wealth of complex topics is woven into a breezy narrative which moreover includes high-sea sailing in the Atlantic, coastal landscape and climate, village life and historical reminiscences. (13+)
Prix 12/17 Brive-Montréal 1995 (Youth novel)

177
Olscamp, Marcel (ed.)
Merola, Caroline (illus.)
Crinière au vent. Poésies du Canada francophone.
(Manes in the Wind. Poems of French-speaking Canada)
Ville LaSalle (Qc): Hurtubise, 1995. 88pp
ISBN 2-89428-088-2
French/Poetry/Anthology

Fifty authors from the French-speaking population of Canada who are represented here with recent poems come from different backgrounds - Indians, immigrants and residents of different provinces. The particular charm of this collection lays in the diversity of the poetic voices. The short, lively texts are easily understandable and ideally suited to encouraging young adults to make their own ventures into the world of lyric and visual expression. (12+)

☺ Special Mention

178
Sarfati, Sonia
Comme une peau de chagrin
(Like Shagreen)
Montréal : La Courte Echelle, 1995. 154pp
ISBN 2-89021-242-4
Anorexia - Friendship

Gabriele begins to notice strange changes in the behavior of her girlfriend Fréderique. Suddenly she comes to the realization that Fréderique has anorexia nervosa. With increasing uneasiness she observes the progress of the illness and discovers the psychological causes which lead to this drive toward self-destruction. The trusted face of her friend breaks to reveal a different merciless person who is driven by a revengeful obsession with power. This moving novel offers a sound exposé of the disease which is symptomatic of our times. It also shows that true friendship only reveals itself when put to the test. (13+)
Governor General's Literary Award 1995

179
Sernine, Daniel
La traversée de l'apprenti sorcier
(The Journey of the Magician's Apprentice)
Montréal: Médiaspaul, 1995. 176pp
(Neubourg et Granverger)
ISBN 2-89420-282-2
Sea travel/1595 - Bretagne/New World - Myth - Occult

This fantasy novel completes a 10-volume cycle of historical tableaus spread over four centuries with which the author has held his readers in suspense for serveral years. The scenario on which the plot is based is historically sound, solid and tightly developed. The figure of the master who has the powers of a shaman brings in mythical ideas from a prehistoric age. On the journey to the so-called New World he teaches his pupil to read world's phenomena to find traces of submerged ages and to trust the magical powers which influence human fate. (13+)

180
Vachon, Hélène (text)
Yayo (illus.)
Le sixième arrêt
(The Sixth Bus Stop)
Saint-Lambert (Québec): Héritage, 1995. 40pp
ISBN 2-7625-7916-3
Bus - Fantasy - Adventure
»Step aboard, get your ticket, get off at the sixth stop,« Papa tells his son Somerset when he is about to take his first busride. But Somerset set off for the ride like a knight sets off on a mission. The bus is a dangerous opponent, the driver the master of the dungeons, the passangers his prisoners. Already by the first busstop unbelievable things have occurred as seen from the perspective of an imaginative child. The interaction of text and illustration is perfect even in this small paperback format with its narrow pages and easy-to-read large print, interspersed with plenty of colorful pictures full of »action«. (6+) ✪

181
Villeneuve, Michel (text)
Sylvestre, Louise (illus.)
Le castor
(The Beaver)
Waterloo: Michel Quintin, 1994. 24pp
(Ciné-faune)
ISBN 2-920438-34-4
Beaver - Natural science
The distinguishing feature of this picture book series is the successful connection of information in the text and clever illustrations which combine realistic and anthropomorphic portrayals of the animals, in this case the beaver. In this manner the young viewer can empathize and have pleasure with the animal kingdom while subtly acquiring a precise lesson in natural history. (5+) ✪

Denmark

182
Als, Roald (text/illus.)
Personlig tog jeg ikke skade af at vokse op
(Personally It Did Me No Harm to Grow Up)
København: Høst & Søn, 1995. 91pp
ISBN 87-14-19375-2
Family - Growing-up - Trondheim - Childhood memories
This is the story of a family eking out a meager existence in the 1920s in Trondheim. Memories of those days and the usual people and situations which were part of that life are awakened during a trip back to Trondheim many years later. The author describes this trip and his memories with an unmatched dry humor, making the story a pleasure even for people who don't come from Trondheim. The Norwegian-born author is a cartoonist for the newspaper »Politiken,« and has therefore illustrated richly the book with very severe-looking but skillful caricatures as well as with atmospheric drawings. (12+)

183
Bach Ølgaard, Ragnhild
Torneroseslottet
(Sleeping Beauty's Castle)
København: Modtryk, 1995. 171pp
ISBN 87-7394-382-7
Youth - Old age - Love
This is the story of two dreamers with a great difference in age. Thirteen-year-old Jonas and 93-year-old Mariane both are outcasts of society. Jonas is tormented at school, the old woman vegetates in a nursing home which is called »Sleeping Beauty's Castle.« She tries to free herself from this narrow world through her imagination. The encounter with Jonas in a mystical past lets them both believe in a fulfilling love. This very lyrical young adult novel, the author's first work, is certainly not accessible to everyone, but can offer give comfort with its positive, idealistic perspective. (12+)

184
Bertelsen, Karen; Egebak, Birte (eds.)
Thaulov, Pia (illus.)
Eventyrprinsesser
(Fairy Tale Princesses)
København: Borgen, 1995. 113pp
ISBN 87-21-00040-9
Fairy tales - Princess
This is a colletion of well-known (H.C.Andersen, Grimm) and less well-known stories and fairy tales, mainly from the Scandinavian region, and about princesses. It includes attractive black-and-white drawings by the talented illustrator Thaulov. (8+)

185
Clausen, Jacob
Hjertebåndet
(Heartstrings)
København: Forum, 1995. 153pp
ISBN 87-553-2358-8
Denmark/Germany/Occupation - Denmark/Third Reich/Resistence
The young girl Stine, who is an activist against Neonazism, discovers that her grandmother had an affair with a Danish SS-man who she later reported to the police when he returned from the war. Stine begins to reflect upon the German-Danish relationships, especially about Danish citizens of German descent. In this context of personal rela-tionships the problematic relationship between Denmark and the Nazi regime, which until now state officials have prefered to keep quiet, is revealed (exposed, uncovered) in an accessible form for the young reader. (12+) ✧

186
Hedlund, Irene (text/illus.)
Historien om et meget vredt næsehorn Brutalis
(The story of the very nasty Rhinoceros Brutalis)
København: Forum, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 87-553-2266-2
Anger
Children who cannot control their anger will feel both understood and gently chastised by the fate of this rhinoceros with a name that speaks for itself. But since according to modern developmental theories, every burst of anger has a cause and is never from within the child himself, Brutalis's

anger actually stems from the fact that his mother left him. Only when he is sent to Africa does he feel good again. The artist lets Brutalis's anger shoot out of his mouth as brightly colored flames, in keeping with the strong colors and activity characteristic of her pictures. (4+) ○

187
Jacobsen, Ken
Flugten fra Kaos
(The Flight from Chaos)
Frederiksberg: Branner og Korch, 1995. 161pp
ISBN 87-411-5770-2
Dictatorship - Escape - Survival
The entire world is shaken by catastrophes and wars. The »Northland« is ruled by a dictator. A young boy flees from a prisoner camp and together with the young girl Nanna tries to survive. In this suspenseful story the author attempts to show young readers in an encoded form that even fifty years after the last world war the causes of its origins have not yet been eliminated. (12+)

188
Jørgensen, Lone Diana
Marie på stenbroen
(Marie on the Cobblestones)
København: Høst & Søn, 1995. 175pp
ISBN 87-14-19328
Moving house - City life - Integration - Family size
Six-year-old Marie, who has to move with her family from the country to the city, has to cope with a new, not very friendly and narrow environment, full of dirt and above all strange children. How she manages to adjust to her new world is described by the author in vivid detail with a cerain amount of soberness that makes it especially moving. The background descriptions are particularly vivid. (6+) ○

189
Langstrup, Steen
Blodets nætter
(The Nights of Blood)
København: Høst & Søn, 1995. 183pp
ISBN 87-14-19376-0
Vampire - Love
When a comic-drawing artist goes to the country in the summer, he doesn't find the hoped for rest and relaxation when vampires get involved. This is a suspenseful and amusing (if bloody affairs can be amusing!) modern vampire novel. It's special touch lays in the fact that the politically correct, charming and mysterious female vampire, whom the artist encounters, incites him to act similarly. The story closes, in proper style, with the hero joining up with an honorable society of vampires. The author, who makes his debut in 1995, writes in an easy, entertaining style without seeming too trivial. Teenagers may feel this book is written for them. (14+)

190
Lind, Peter (text)
Karrebæk, Dorte (illus.)
Væddemålet
(The wager)
København: Høst & Søn, 1995. 16pp
ISBN 87-14-19268-3
Sun - Wind - Competition
Dorte Karrebæk's speciality is the grotesque. In the current European picture book scene she is quite unbeatable. She describes the old story of a bet between the wind and the sun as to which of them will succeed in getting a man to take off his coat in illustrations just bursting with action. She finds not only very clever but also surprising illustration ideas. She portrays the wind as an bloodsucker (leech) gone wild, who tears out the skyscapers roots and all and bears his teath at everyone. (6+)

191
Madsen, Peter (illus.)
Menneskesønnen: en tegneserie om Jesus
(The Son of Man: A Picture Story of Jesus)
[København:] Det Danske Bibelselskab, 1995.
135pp
ISBN 87-7523-337-1
Jesus Christ - Bible story - Comic

This is an impressive attempt to tell the life of Jesus in comic-style format. Peder Madsen succeeds in avoiding any pious kitsch and transforming the story in dramatic, biblically accurate, though fairly sombre illustrations in a realistic, pictorial style. (10+) ○

192
Nyholm (text)
Karrebæk, Dorte (illus.)
Ilden
(The Fire)
København: Forum, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 87-553-2272-7
Canada/Indians/Fairy tales - Fire

The Indian tale about how man took fire from the wolves in order to keep from freezing and to be able to eat roasted food is told in humorous caricatur illustrations dominated by much movement. The illustrator has succeeded in developing an original draftsman-like style in her several picture books. (6+) ✧

193
Overskov, Carsten
De andre
(The Others)
Frederiksberg: Branner og Korch, 1995. 219pp
ISBN 87-411-5768-0
Outsider

Sixteen-year-old Jesper is one of the boys who keeps to himself and lets no one get close to him, especially not any girl. He suffers from always wanting something but not being able to do anything about it. His self-doubting is described here in a very sympathetic manner, which will stimulate the reader to think more about other people and the reasons for their behavior. (14+)

194
Spang Olsen, Ib (illus.)
Den store Krage: En gammel vise
(The great Crow: An old Song)
Hillerød: alma, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 87-7243-159-8
Crow - Farmers - Boaster - Wealth

Boastfulness has no reward, according to an old Danish song. The farmer who shot a crow must account to the bishop's servant for what he did with the bird. In the farmer's account, the pieces of the crow which he used get larger and more plentiful - like the loaves and fishes in the biblical story of the feeding of the multitudes. In the end he must hand over his bow and arrow, the cause of his apparent wealth, to the servant. Spang Olsen succeeds marvelously in making the story come alive with his subtely colored pencil drawings, and he seems to have no trouble in portraying the crow as a magpie. (8+)

195
Thaulov, Pia
Musejagten
(Mouse-hunting)
København: Høst & Søn, 1995. 12pp
ISBN 87-14-13133-1
Cat - Mouse - Hunt - Rescue

Pai Thaulov is one of the best Danish illustrators of children's books. With her cartoon pen and her humor she succeeds in creating picture books for the very small reader that are far removed from the usual sugariness. She doesn't just string together inidividual pictures, but tells little stories without any text. Four titles in this series have appeared so far. (3-5)

Scandinavian Languages

Norway

196
Asbjørnsen, Peter Christen (text)
Moe, J. E. (text)
Granhaug, Silje (illus.)
Hanen og reven
(The Rooster and the Fox)
Oslo: J. W. Cappelen, 1995. [24pp].
ISBN 82-02-14862-6
Fox - Threat - Rooster - Cleverness

The tale of the rooster who is caught by the fox but then uses his cleverness to free himself is presented here as a picture book with modern illustrations in a pictorial style - in images take on expressive character through their almost grotesquely deformed proportions, but which with their use of extreme perspectives at times resemble comic art. (6+)

197
Berggren, Arne
Kornetten - et rop om hjelp
(The Cornet Player - A Cry for Help)
Oslo: Aschehoug, 1995. 127pp
ISBN 82-03-24118-2
School - Pop music

The main character and first-person narrator of this book is a new member of a brass orchestra at school. The orchestra not only serves to develop musical talents, for example by practicing »I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas«, but also to give a sense of community. The boy must learn to deal on the one hand with the demands of the music group and with his aversion to it and on the other hand with his parents in order to exert his own will. The appeal of this amusing and contemplative story, full of dry humor, is to be found in a few episodic highlights and in the dialogues. (12+) ☺

198
Bringsværd, Tor Åge (text)
Nortvedt, Therese (illus.)
Ragnarok
(The Twilight of the Gods)
Olso: Gyldendal Norsk, 1995. [58pp].
(Vår gamle gudelære, Bd.12)
ISBN 82-05-22369-6
Scandinavia/Mythology

In this twelve-volume series the individual heathen gods and characteristic themes of Scandinavian mythology are presented in a comprehensive story rather than in the usual general description in encyclopedia style. The various Norwegian illustrators of the series have attempted to avoid the usual historicizing style of illustration. Therese Nortvedt excells with these expressive, artistic pictures. Sharp contrasts between black-white and color resemble the style of l'art brut. In addition to the twelve volumes there is an encyclopedia-style volume with alphabetized descriptions of all persons mentioned with references to the respective volumes. (10+)

☺ Special Mention

199
Ekman, Fam
Dagbok forsvunnet
(The Missing Diary)
Oslo: J. W. Cappelen, 1995. [34pp]
ISBN 82-02-1526
Diary - Loss - Search/Find

Having already attracted attention with a number of original picture books, the artist shows here that she is capable of even more. While retaining her individual graphic style - a mixture of abstraction, expressive gestures and primitivist form - she employs more expansive and consistency in these pictures. This is the story of a statue that loses her diary, searches for it in various places in the city and finally finds it at the police station, it is fascinating to see how the artist can create a level of uncertainty and mystery behind the concrete figures and landscapes. She encourages the imagination of the reader who is prepared to indulge in the mood of the images. (6+)

200
Halstvedt, Tor (text)
Hansen, Thore (illus.)
Elvtyven
(The river thief)
Oslo: J. W. Cappelen, [1995]. 152pp
Tramp - Transformation - Adventure travels
Kåre, the stutterer, and Johan are absolutely bored to death. But not for long, because they soon are captured by a tramp and turned first of all into fish. They have to wander around the world searching for a stolen river before they finally arrive home again safely. This is an adventure story, amusingly told, illustrated with comical cartoon illustrations that take all the trouble out of reading. (10+)

201
Hansen, Espen (text)
Sandemose, Iben (illus.)
De tre sauene som dro til byen for å ha det fett
(The Three Sheep Who Went to Town to Have a Good Time)
Oslo: J. W. Cappelen, 1995. 38pp
ISBN 82-02-15289-5
Sheep - Hibernation - City/Country - Opposites
Almost as a travesty of the City Musicians of Bremen, the author tells here of three sheep who see the winter approaching and believe they could survive it better in the city. In a compact, fairy-tale like form the reader experiences the grotesque clashes between the animals, whose can only imperfectly behave like people (leaving behind them in the bus funny black lumps), and civilization. They advance to stardom as pop-singers because their rhythmic ba-ba-ba fits ideally into the level of pop-music. Brief and humorous, accom-panied by ingenious black-and-white illustrations in Iben Sandemose's typical, robust style - books which succeed as well as this one are not found often. (8+) ☼

202
Rem, Håvard (text)
Nordberg, Harald (illus.)
Tvilling brødrene
(The Twin Brothers)
Oslo: Aschehoug, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 82-03-24105-0
Good/Evil
In a very delicate manner the two opposing sides of human nature are portrayed here in twin brothers. This is a topic which is often disturbing to children when they realize that they want to be good, but instead do bad things. That both sides go to make up each person is shown in the ending when the gentle, handsome Jon and the strong, coarse Sigurd melt together into one person. Harald Nordberg's pictures portray shapes and landscapes in almost naive form, embedded in spotty, even cracked color backgrounds. Static or full of movement, the shapes and colors merge into vigorous pictures which can unfold their full effect even in a relatively small book format (6+)

☺ Special Mention

203
Sandemose, Iben
Englepels
(Angel's Skin)
Oslo: J. W. Cappelen, 1995. 32pp
ISBN 82-02-15777-3
Cat - Death - Angel - Grief
The theme of death and grieving has certainly never been dealt with in such and ingenious and humorous manner as in this picture book. It describes how a little girl buries her dead cat and forwards all the cats letters to heaven. A fallen angel (connoisseurs of will recognize the allusion to Hugo Simberg's famous picture »Wounded Angel«), whom she carries off and nurses back to health with her also grieving older girl-friend, takes her for a visit to heaven where she can see for herself that her cat is happy. Later a new cat helps to overcome the sadness once and for all. Iben Sandemose (*1950), whose expressive style has sadly only been published to date by daring publishers in Scandinavia, has a talent for telling a story as unsentimentally but still very movingly, so that the guidance that she hopes to offer reaches the reader

undiminished. Sandemose works with vivacious movement and solid lines and spaces and intensive but not garish colors. The double-paged spreads with hand-written text (the letters) excellently unfold their full graphic effect through the contrast between black-and-white, monotone and multi-coloring. She is even able to make a field full of black gravestones aesthetically appealing. (6+)

Sweden

204
Lagercrantz, Rose (text)
Lagercrantz, Rebecka (illus.)
Fredagsöverraskningen
(The Friday surprise)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 1995. [14]pp
ISBN 91-638-0388-7
Divorce - Single parent - Loneliness - Girlfriend
Two girls, only children of divorced parents, one living with her mother, the other with her father, become friends and thus overcome their loneliness. While a seemingly everyday life story, the author's style of narration captivates the reader with an intensive, human approach and a penetrating choice of words that will leave no reader unmoved. Similarly direct and intensive are the watercolor illustrations by her daughter Rebecka, who has become a drawer with a brush who puts whatever she sees onto paper, in color, without any detours via sketches and drafts. (8+)

205
Lindqvist, Marita (text)
Eklund, Erika (illus.)
Nikodemus (Proper name)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 1995. [14]pp
ISBN 91-638-0353-4
Child/Grandfather - Forefathers - Adventure
When a child is alone, its imagination is especially willing to go wandering. In one illustration a grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather step out one after the other, each drawn to their old easy chair where each had liked to sit, and now they begin to fight over it. When his parents come along, Nikodemus pushes them and in fact his imagination quickly back into the picture again. This well-known motif is given amusing variation and illustrated with action-filled, loosely drawn caricatures. (8+)

206
Ryberg, Ulf (text)
Härdin, Sonja (illus.)
Pappan som växte fast på sin stol
(The Papa who Became Stuck to his Chair)
Stockholm: Eriksson & Lindgren, 1995. [26pp]
ISBN 91-87-80470-0
Father - Family - Conservativism - Punishment
Such a grotesque, pasha-like father who lets his wife do all the work while he does nothing but eat can only be found today in picture books - at least in Sweden. Getting fatter and fatter, he earns his punishment when his chair becomes stuck to his bottom. Only the difficult decision to change himself releases him from this embarrassing mark of Cain. The text in verse form, as is still common in Sweden, is accompanied by appropriately caricaturist illustrations, making the book an entertaining read for everyone. (6+)

207
Sörenson, Margareta
Bakom vindsdörren
(Behind the Attic Door)
Stockholm: Eriksson & Lindgren, 1995, 97pp
ISBN 91-87804-75-1
Foreigner - Integration
The life a perfectly normal, average Swedish family is disrupted by an extraordinary event, the arrival of a refugee family from the Middle East. This book sensitively describes the problems and cautious attempts at becoming acquainted from the point of view of the little girl, Liselott, in simple words so that the young reader can easily identify with the goals of the book. (8+) ✧

208
Stark, Ulf (text)
Palmgren, Jessica (illus.)
Min vän shejken i Stureby
(My Friend the Sheikh in Stureby)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen,
1995, 114pp
ISBN 91-638-3039-6
Sweden/Childhood memories
This strongly autobiographical, amusing book by the renown Swedish author deals with a boy's attempts to conquer the world (at first through hypnosis), his first closer encounter with the female sex and a boy's life in Sweden in the 1950s. It is the sequel to *Min vän Percys magiska gymnastikskor* (»The Magical Gymshoes of my Friend Percy«). (10+)

209
Wahl, Mats
Lilla Marie
(Little Marie)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen,
1995. 266pp
ISBN 91-638-3217-8
Single mother - Mother/Daughter - Father/Daughter
Always particularly interested in the strange ways of the human psyche, Mats Wahl relates here in this many-layered novel - with as usual for him in lower class setting - the problems of a fifteen-year-old girl, Marie, the first-person narrator. Frequently acting unexpectedly aggressive, Marie runs away when she fears that her mother's friend wants to have sex with her. By bringing longstanding terms of relationship into motion, she actually becomes closer to her mother, even though in the end she must learn to accept that fact that she owes her own life to a rape. Wahl's stunningly written description of youthhood in Stockholm give the book its tension and color. (14+)

210
Wahl, Mats (text)
Nordqvist, Sven (illus.)
Nu seglar Vasa!
(Now the Vasa is sailing!)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen,
1995. 95pp
ISBN 91-638-3199-6
Wasa (Ship) - Disaster/History 1628
In Sweden there are now many books available about this famous shipwreck, but hardly any in other languages or for children. Now two of the best children's book authors have been assigned the task of making this new book for children and have valiantly succeeded in creating a better book than all previous ones. Mats Wahl tells a suspenseful story about the life of the ship builders; Sven Nordqvist shows that he can draw more than just cats. His illustrations are vivid, lively and thus informative. His slightly caricaturistic manner of drawing, remotely reminiscent of Ralph Steadman, fits this book well. In addition the book contains thirty pages of interesting facts and photos.
(A German edition of this book was published in 1995 by Carlsen). (10+)

211
Wegelius, Jakob
Herr Balders hemlighet
(Mr. Balder's Secret)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 1995. [28pp].
ISBN 91-638-0450-6
Sheep - Lawn mower
A very typically English style of grotesque humor is given expression in this story of the estate owner Balder, who orders sheep by newspaper advertisement to mow his lawn. The sheep are little inclined to work and decide to take it easy. But they also defend him, as it befits their own interests, against the much too strict neighbour. This amusing and unusual, but not exceptionally original story with pictures in finely drawn contours, as curly wooled as a sheepskin. (6+)

Bulgaria

212
Gabe, Dora (text)
Lalev, Dimităr (illus.)
Boža majka : Knižka za dobri deca
(Mother of God: A book for Well-Behaved Children)
Plovdiv: Žanet-45, 1995. 45pp
ISBN 954-491-012-3
Bulgaria/Social customs - Christianity/Church calendar - Poetry

Dora Gabe (1888-1983) was one of the most popular Bulgarian children book's writers. Her works were widely read both between the two world wars and during the Socialist era. This volume of poems deals with religious subjects or have a religious background. The book is illustrated with spiritual images of a Bulgarian avant-garde artist. (6+)

Croatia

213
Dovjak-Matković, Blanka (text)
Kirin, Vladimir (illus.)
Zagrebačka priča
(Stories from Zagreb)
Zagreb: Znanje 1994. 139 pp.
ISBN 953-6124-52-1
Zagreb/History/1920-1940 - Childhood memories

In this very autobiographical novel Blanka Dovjak-Matković (1920-1993) describes what it was like to grow up in Zagreb in the 1920s and 1930s. Without lengthy descriptive text, she is still able to convey the flavor of various parts of the city and their different ways of life. Although the author is more known for her short prose, she succeeds here in giving a convincing psychological study of the main characters. This is not a novel about an idyllic childhood, but rather an account of the life of a child with all its ups and downs. (10+)

Czech Republic

214
Daněk, Adolf (text)
Bornová, Erika (illus.)
Baje Českého Pošumaví
(Tales from the Bohemian Forest)
Praha: Kentaur/Polygrafia 1994. 225pp
ISBN 80-85285-62-2
Tales/Bohemia

This tales from the Bohemian Forest appeared first 1948. The Czech folklorist Adolf Daněk took the collection and added a story around them, describing the occasion and cirumstances of an oral tradition. Hence in the age of written literature this is an important contribution to the understanding and re-discovery of storytelling. Alongside of the eternal motif of watermen, sprites and water nymphs, these tales deal with every other possible kind of supernatural appearances. The avant-garde, naive illustration style of Erika Bornová, the daughter of the celebrated Czech artist Adolf Born, appear to be images from the psyche of the characters whose experiences are related in these stories. (10+)

215
Zelený, Mnislav (text)
Smrčinová, Eva, Fibiger, Milan and Urban, Petr (illus.)
Indiánská encyklopedie
(Encyclopedia of Indians)
Praha: Albatros 1994. 255pp
ISBN 80-00-004515-1
Indians/Encyclopedia

This information book from the formerly state-own children's book publisher Albatros is an excellent source about North American Indians for both general reading and reference.The articles by the ethnologist Mnislav Zelený give scientifically sound information not only on the history, customs, life-style, art and crafts of the Indians of South, Middle and North America, but also of the Aleuts and the Inuit (Eskimos). The illustrations are not merely informative, but also meet high artistic standards. (12+)

216
Klučina, Petr (text)
Petráček, Jiří (illus.)
České země v době husitské
(The Bohemian Countries in the Days
of the Hussites)
Praha: Albatros, 1994. 64pp
(Dějiny v obrazech)
ISBN 80-00-00032-6

217
Lněničková, Jitka (text)
Maget, Jan (illus.)
České země v době baroka
(The Bohemian Countries during
the Barock Era)
Praha: Albatros, 1994. 63pp
(Dějiny v obrazech)
ISBN 80-00-00066-0

218
Mandelová, Helena (text)
Anlauf, Lubomír (illus.)
Na úsvitu Českých dějín
(At the Dawn of Czech History)
Praha: Albatros, 1995. 63pp
(Dějiny v obrazech)
ISBN 80-00-00348-8
Bohemia/History

These three volumes belong to the series »History in Pictures«, in which the history of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia from the prehistoric ages (the immigration of the Slavs) to the present are described. In precise pictures, tables and a narrative text the reader is given a lively introduction to historical events as well as the economy, life circumstances and social life in each historical period. (10+)

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia)

219
Stefanović, Mirjana (text)
Otašević, Dušan (illus.)
Sekino seoce
(Seka's Little Village)
Beograd: Ginko, 1994. 125pp
ISBN 86-7753-016-9
Witch - Animals - Island - Isolation

This fantasy novel for children by the renown Serbian author Mirjana Stefanović (*1939) contains many ironical experiences from her own life and travels, many pieces of nonsense and is also a treasure grove of Serb(ocroat)ian phraseology. The text cries out for a rendering on stage or in radio. In the first section a woman character on a witch's broom travels not only through different countries and parts of the globe, but also through periods of time, through a macrocosmos which is counterbalanced by the microcosmos of Serbia. In the second section she employs a rooster and its chicken ballett to describe the world of culture with its glamour, intrigues and complex relationships. In the third section, the first person narrator reports on experiences made with her cat. In the final chapter the narrator is preparing to emigrate to a lonely island in the Pacific Ocean, where she plans to live together with her chickens, cats and friends from all over the world. With its allusions to the isolation of Serbia, this novel is evidently an attempt to convey the need for a more cosmopolitan view of the world. (12+)

Latvia

220
Leja, Gunta (comp.)
Dobrājs, Kārlis (illus.)
VĒJA VANADZIŅŠ : Latviešu
tautas teikas
(Latvian folk legends)
Rīga: Sprīdītis, 1995. 399pp
ISBN 6-7-960-0139-6
Latvia/Folktales

This extensive selection of Latvian tales deals with such themes as wind and weather, the origins of the stars and the earth, the origin of animals and the descent of man, the conditions in which man lives and his society, gods and spirits, dragons, giants and dwarves, devils, magicians and witches, will-o'-the wisps, nightmares and werewolves, and also contents legends on cities, castles and churches. This volume is illustrated with expressive avant-garde graphics which reflect the archaic agrarian society and emphasize the transcendental aspects of the legends.

Lithuania

221
Erlickas, Juozas (text)
Gultiajeva, Nadežda (illus.)
Bobutė iš Paryžiaus arba Lakštingala
Zarasuose: Eilėraščiais
(The Grandma from Paris or The
Nightingale from Zarasai: Poems)
Vilnius: alma littera 1995. 158 pp
ISBN 9986-02-076-X
Lithuania - Poetry/Lithuanian

This funny and tastefully illustrated volume contains 100 witty poems for children. (6+)

222
Nemunėlis, Vytė
(i.e.: Bernardas Brazdžionis) (text)
Valiuvienė, Sigutė (illus.)
Tevu nameliai brangūs
(The Beloved Family Home)
Vilnius: Vyturys 1995. 132pp
ISBN 57900-0736-8
Lithuania/Nature - Poetry/Lithuanian

The Lithuanian symbolist Bernardas Brazdžionis (*1907) was highly acclaimed between the two world wars for the poetry he wrote for children under the pseudonym Vytė Nemunėlis. In 1936 he was awarded the Red Cross Prize for Children's Literature. After he emigrated via Austria and Germany to the United States in 1944, his works could not appear there 50 years long.The former state-owned publishing house Vyturys has now issued a selection of his poetry on the theme of nature taken from nine of the original volumes. (6+)

223
Vitalija Gražienė (ed.)
Valiūėtė, Eglė (illus.)
Saulės kelias
Tautosakos ir grožinės literatūros kūriniai
ikimokyklinio amžiaus vaikams
(The Sun's Path. Pieces of Folk Literature
for Pre-School Children)
Kaunas: Šviesa 1994. 246pp
ISBN 5-430-01515-6
Seasons - Times of Day - Life

This well-illustrated and attractively designed volume contains poetry and short tales related to four themes: (1) Morning - birth - spring; (2) Day - Light - Growth - Summer; (3) Evening - Twilight - Frost - Autumn; and (4) Night - Darkness - Winter. A considerable number of the contributions come from Lithuanian authors or from Lithuanian folklore, but also from international classics by authors such as H. Chr. Andersen, Janosch, T. Jansson, S. Lagerlöf, A. Lindgren, A. A. Milne, B. Potter, G. Rodari, J. Tuwim. The gay illustrations are taken from nature and from fairy tales. (4+)

Russia

224
Lunin, Viktor (text)
Muchanova, Elena (illus.)
Priključenija sdobnoj Lizy : Povest'-skazka
(The Adventures of Gingerbread Liza. A Fairy Tale)
Moskva: Slovo 1995. 88pp
ISBN 5-85050-331-5
Cat - Phantastic tale

Viktor Lunin first became known to Russian children's literature through his witty verses, in which he gave shape to moods or ideas, without tackling any particual subject. Interestingly enough, he takes the same approach in his prose. He reduces the plot to a minimum, sketches out moods and shapes of plot. In this fairy tale the master pastry maker Cream makes a cat, the gingerbread Liza, come to life. She jumps through the window and wanders through town and countryside. In her many adventures she still remains a creature made of dough. With her new friend, tom-cat Valerian on the track of mice, she accidentally returns to the shop of the pastry maker, who has been given a basket of mice by an ill-willed relative. Liza and Valerian free Cream from this nuisance. The story shows many parallels to folk-tales and is told typically for Lunin, in a lively, child-oriented narrative. (6+)

225
Buslenko, Vladimir (text)
Andreev, N. (illus.)
Kak rabotaet kompjuter
(How a computer works)
Moskva: Malyš, 1995. 26pp
ISBN 5-213-00882-8
Computer/History

This very simply bound, but excellently designed booklet gives an insight into the history and functioning of calculating machines, beginning with the mechanical calculator of Blaise Pascal (1648) to the modern personal computer and large-frame computers, with their many uses. In the historical section the illustrations are historical, while the section on modern computers is strongly oriented toward Soviet avant-garde art of the 1920s and 1930s. (10+)

226
Šif, Ljubov' Isakovna (text)
Džigirej, Alla (illus.)
Putešestvija po Peterburgu s Alikom i Gusarikom
(Trips through Saint Petersburg with Alex and the Little Husar)
Sankt-Peterburg: Nevskij kur'er 1994. 78pp
ISBN 5-86072-065-3
Travel guide - Saint Petersburg

This is the first volume of a series of narrative city guides to Saint Petersburg. Seven-year-old Alex and his friend, the little Husar, visit the Church of Peter and Paul, the Eremitage, the city's first house - the little house of Peter the First - and Vasiliy Island and other interesting and historically significant sites. Beginning with several stories about the history of the town, the two friends themselves land in these historical periods. The book is illustrated with black-and-white silhouette graphics interspersed in the text and with double-paged color illustrations. (8+)

227
Serova, Marija Micheevna (text)
Grebennikov (illus.)
Novgorodskie skazki
(Tales from Novgorod)
Novgorod: Zemlja Novgorodskaja 1995. 151pp
ISBN 5-900376-01
Fairy tale/Russia

This small collection of fairy tales from northwest Russia appeared in 1925 in a small print run of the publishing house Petrograd. But it could not be found in Russian libraries. Thus this volume, with its at times earthy humor, has been reissued based on a copy of the Serova family living in Paris. It is typical of those days, illustrated in a style having elements of art nouveau, expressionism and Russian folk art, where ornamental images alternate with free compositions and icon-like portrayals of real people. (8+)

228
Kružkov, Grigorij (text)
Šatalov, A. (illus.)
Otkuda što vzjalos' - Where Things Came From
Engl. transl.by Rosamund Bartlett
Moskva: Linka-Press, 1995. 36pp
ISBN 5-7193-0050-3
Creation myth

This simply designed Russian picture book, a bilingual booklet, about the origins of animals, plants and the world in which they live incorporates legends and creation myths from all around the world. (6+)

Slovakia

229
Hudec, Ivan (text)
Ondrejčka, Karol (illus.)
Báje a mýty starých Slovan
(Legends and Myths of the Old Slavs)
Bratislava: Slovart, 1995. 133pp
ISBN 80-7145-111-8
Slavs/Myths

Just as the Germanic myths hardly play a part in the traditions of the Germanic peoples, so it is that the Slavic peoples only know their own myths and tales of gods in pieces, often as a turn of phrase or oath.

In this exquisitely illustrated book with color graphics, the reader is introduced to the Slavic story of creation and the world of the gods, and shown how mythology developed from its origins up to the beginning of historical times. (10+)

230
Dušek, Dušan (text)
Machaj, Vladimír (illus.)
Daidalos a Ikaros
(Daedalus and Icarus)
Bratislava: Mladé letá, 1995. 27pp
ISBN 80-06-00051-4
Legends
The text of this richly illustrated volume of classic legends was adapted from a modern classic of Slovakian children's literature by Dušan Dušek.

Slovenia

231
Novak, Boris A. (text)
Manček, Marjan (illus.)
Blabla : pesmi in igre za male in velike tigre
(Blah-Blah: Stories and Games for Tigers Large and Small <Play on words>)
Ljubljana: DZS 1995. 9pp
ISBN 86-341-1399-X
Poetry/Slovene
This book contains seven very successful cyclic poems by one of the most popular Slovenian poets of modern times, both for adults and children. The themes of these poems include both animals and humans and make reference to various forms of pop music, card games, human fate, values such as orderliness and cleanliness (from various points of view), television. It also includes brazen and thought-provoking verse on topics such as love, nonsense poems and plays on words. (11+)

Belgium (Flemish)

232
Dreesen, Jaak (text)
Mammie! Mammie!
(Mummy! Mummy!)
Averbode: Altiora, 1995. 47pp
ISBN 90-317-1148-9
Illness - Death - Mother/Child

»Mummy, mummy,« cries a sick boy. The difficult themes of illness and dying are tackled in this simple, moving story. The narrative style is sober, and because of the many repetitions the text has a poetic rhythm. Feelings of tenderness and powerlessness are central to the story. Although the ending is open and optimistic, thoughts and dreams expressed in the story linger on in the reader's mind. The text is rather condensed and contains many streams of thought keeping the reader continually poised between dream and reality. (10+)

The Netherlands (Dutch)

233
Dekkers, Midas (text)
Vrede, Angela de (illus.)
Neuzen in je oksel
(Put Your Nose in Your Armpit)
Amsterdam: Leopold, 1995. 46pp
ISBN 90-258-3389-6
Plants - Animals - Anatomy

Midas Dekkers has constructed this book using a typical, associative technique. He describes various anatomical characteristics of human beings, animals and plants, and takes these as a starting point to highlight all kinds of characteristics and behaviours of the owners. The illustrations, consisting of juxtaposed loose elements of various organisms, are not only functional but very beautiful. Midas Dekkers' narrative technique and Angela de Vrede's illustrative style go hand in hand in this book. (9+)

234
Hagen, Hans (text)
Geelen, Harrie (illus.)
Stilte a.u.b. ik denk aan de kip
(Quiet Please, I'm Thinking of Chicken)
Amsterdam: Van Goor, 1995. 32pp
ISBN 90-00-03046-3
Death - Mourning - Dreams

In this book, the death of a friend is not presented in tragic or inevetable terms. Each in their own way, Onno Ebe, cockerel and crow try to deal with chicken's death, and to accept it by letting their dreams and thoughts take their own course. In this way, a new bond with chicken evolves. The picture book, with its sober yet effective use of words, a poetic language without frills, certainly stimulate the reader's thoughts about life and death. (5+)

235
Jong, Trude de (text)
Dematons, Charlotte (illus.)
Een verboden kind
(A Forbidden Child)
Amsterdam: De Harmonie, 1995. 204pp
ISBN 90-6169-492-2
The Netherlands/World War II - Mother/Daughter

As far as Erica knows her father died in the war. She now (circa 1955) lives with her mother and her aunt in a bourgeois street in The Hague. At home Erica receives evasive answers to her questions but gradually she finds out that during the Second World War her mother had an affair with a German soldier.The descriptions of the relationship between Erica and her mother is handled with sensitivity. Incomprehension and anger gradually make way for understanding and appreciation. (11+)

236
Mileau, Sofie (pseud. of Carry Slee) (text)
The Tjong Khing (illus.)
Haas en kip
(Hare and Chicken)
Houten: Van Holkema & Warendorf, 1995. 30pp
ISBN 90-269-3903-3
Love - Friendship - Differences

This story deals with relationships. How can two individuals love each other, in spite of, or perhaps because of all their differences. A mosaic of poetic stories. In a few deliberate and well-chosen words, the author evokes feelings of friendship and love. The gossamer drawings are moving, sober and recognizable. With a few lines the illustrator expresses deep feelings. (5+)

237
Moeyaert, Bart (text)
Poppel, Peter van (illus.)
Blote handen
(Bare Hands)
Amsterdam; Querido, 1995. 94pp
ISBN 90-214-7573-5
Death - Grief - Loneliness - Revenge
On New Year's Eve, Ward, his dog Elmer and his best friend Bernie are caught by Betjeman who kills Elmer with his plastic hand. Bernie and Ward can only think of revenge and return to Betjeman's house. Bernie with a knife, Ward with his bare hands.The book has a stifling and indeterminate mixture of feelings and moods, an intrinsic tension that keeps the reader in suspense. Ward's sorrow over the loss of Elmer, his feelings of hatred, resentment, fear and insecurity are expressed in a subtle, indirect and suggestive way. The subdued, poetic language, the sober narrative style and the deliberately frugal way in which the story is told contribute to his fascination. (10+)

238
Vries, Anke de (text)
Walraven, Ilja (illus.)
Mijn olifant kan bijna alles
(My Elephant Can Do Most Everything)
Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, 1995. 30pp
ISBN 90-6069-988-2
Elephant/Child/Play
An elephant who can do most everything: stand on a balloon (at least, when he holds his breath) or hang from the ceiling like a gnat. He can do most everything, but he can't stand being away from his young master. When he is off to school, the elephant is sad. When he comes home, elephant can do everything again. A simple picture book with clear, colorful illustrations by a promising children's book illustrator. (3+)

☺ Special Mention

239
Wilmink, Willem (text)
Ali Baba en de veertig tekenaars
(Ali Baba and his Forty Illustrators).
Amsterdam: Zirkoon (De Bijenkorf), 1995.
With ill. 85pp
ISBN 90-71442-68-3
Arabia/Folktale
In this text, originally published in 1983, Willem Wilmink tells the story of Ali Baba and the 40 thieves in rhyme. The story is told in forty stanzas, each one a little gem of playful rhyming. »This book should please everyone who likes horror stories,« as he says in his introduction. But it is not so much the text which makes this book so special. With each stanza, a renowned illustrator has given his or her view on the story. This makes for an exuberant and colorful mosaic of illustrations in a great diversity of styles. Beneath the illustration plates, which are attached by the upper edge only, a small biography of the illustrator is included. Also, all the artists have left their fingerprint in gold next to their illustrations. The book, including its excellent design and typography, can be considered representative of the current standard of Dutch children's book illustrations. (8+)

The Netherlands (Frisian)

240
Pistra, Riemkje (text)
Tuinen, Marianne van (illus.)
Grutte Giele & Lytse Loer (Proper names)
Ljouwert: Afûk, 1995. 24pp
ISBN 90-6273-509-6
(Dutch ed.: Gele Gijs & Lange Loeres. Transl. Mariska Hammerstein. Houten: Van Holkema & Warendorf, 1995. ISBN 90-269-8798-6)
Cat/Dog - Home
A dog and a cat are no longer satisfied with their sleeping quarters at their young master's place. They set off in search of a new home but everywhere they go they are either shoved away or unhappy themselves. At last they return to their original home and fall asleep contentedly. The story (originally written in Frisian) is rendered in highly detailed paper collages. (6+)

Cyprus (Greek)

☺ Special Mention

241
Syllogê Prusê, Kosta (text)
Tsangares, Champes (illus.)
To basilopullon tês Benedias
(The Prince of Venice)
Nicosia: Tsangarês Champês, 1995. 96pp
ISBN 9963-7590-6-8
Fairy tale/Cyprus - Multilingual text
The fascination of this impressive, large-sized book stems above all from the singular illustrations of the internationally recognized artist Champes, whose palette of colors ranges from royal blue to deep red and glowing gold. The atmosphere of Venice in the 15th and 16th century is skillfully, convincingly captured in his scenes. The ruler of Pafos, according to this old Cypriot fairy tale, once embarked on a longer journey. Choosing the present he should bring her from his journey, his youngest daughter demands three hairs from the head of the son of the Venezian king. Each time she burns one hair, he flies to her in the shape of golden eagle. But the third time is different. The text of this book is given in Cypriot, Greek and English. (8+)

Greece

242
Anagnôstopulos, Basilês
To phantasma tês Portitsas
(The Ghost of Portitsa)
Athêna: Kastaniôtês, 1994. 141pp
(Ephêbikê Bibliothêkê)
ISBN 960-03-1279-6
School - Ghost - Village life
Winter 1927. In the little village of Portitsa a ghost suddenly appears in the basement of the school. He revives memories of the village residents, makes inconspicuous things appear bigger, endows everyone with eloquence, and stirs their imaginations. At the same time panic breaks out in the region. The prejudices and mistrust of ordinary people are placed in a humorous light, thus providing a mirror image of the post-war provincial way of life. (12+)

243
Balabanês, Panos (text)
Ganôsê, Anta (illus.)
O lophos me ta krymmena mystika.
To chroniko mias phantastikes anaskaphes
(The hill of hidden secrets.
The chronicle of a fantastic excavation)
Athêna-Nea Smyrne: Akritas, 1995. 78pp
(Neoi Akrites)
ISBN 960-328-030-5
Greece/History - Archeology
This is the story of a place somewhere in Greece, hidden in the heart of a hill that has arisen from 8000 years of lives and adventures. One generation after the other came and built their houses and their temples. When these were destroyed by earthquakes, fires, or enemies room was made for the next settlement, the next culture. One day an archeologist arrives. Being a patient man, he succeeds in uncovering all the secrets of this hill, one after another. This process of making history is depicted in a fantasy story that could even be a true one. (8+)

244
Kontoleôn, Manos
Domênikos (Dominik)
Athêna: Patakês, 1995. 134pp
(Peristeria 26)
ISBN 960-293-724-6
Father/Son - Illness - Growing-up
Twelve-year-old Domênikos sets off on a journey to find the medicine which could save his father's life. On his unusual journey he meets the Skeleton of the Very-Very-Old- Sailor, the Woman-with-Hair-of-Pearls, the Very-Strong-Dwarf and other bizarre creatures. He visits mysterious places such as a breathing cave or the House-that-Stands-on-its-Head and in this way encounters the great values of life and the eternal secrets of nature. He becomes a responsible young man who is able to save his deathly ill father. A part of the adventure of puberty is over... (10+)
(Honorlist of the Greek IBBY section)

Other Languages

245
Kremezê-Margaritulê, Anna
Karetta. Zoa pu kindyneuun
(Loggerhead Turtles. Endangered Species)
Athêna: Ereunetes, 1995. [36pp]
ISBN 960-368-010-9
Turtles - Animal protection
This attractive information book presents the world of ocean turtles, their origins, habitats, hatching areas, and also the fables which have developed around them. The author gives special attention to the particularly endangered loggerhead (caretta caretta) turtles which have chosen the Greek coastal areas as their only hatching area in all of the Mediterranean basin. The young reader is given valuable information not only about the steps needed to protect these turtles, but also about various organizations which are involved in this work. The extensive text and many detailed illustrations will help to motivate the reader to help protect this lovable animal. (8+)

☺ Special Mention

246
Spyru, Dêmêtrês
O Psyllos
(The flea)
Athêna: Patakes, 1995. 157pp
(Parusies 7)
ISBN 960-293-962-1
Newspaper - Outsider - Dreams
»O Psyllos« is the title of a small newspaper in the remote village in the mountains of Olympia, care-fully, lovingly written out by hand by twelve-year-old Elias. He and »The flea« are one: »It is a dream...the wings that will take me far far away some day.« But in the village there is almost no one who believes in him. Even the teacher treats him like an unwanted outsider. But Elias doesn't give up so easily.
The film »O Psyllos« was an international success and was voted as the best European children's film in Luxembourg in 1990, won first prize in film festivals in Berlin, Chicago and Belfast. (10+)

247
Xanthulês, Giannês (text/illus.)
Aneba stê stegê na phame to synnepho
(Climb up to the roof to eat the cloud)
Athêna: Kastaniotes, 1994. 83pp
(To kalo biblio gia paidia)
ISBN 960-03-1185-4
Citylife - Fantasy
»Zementupolê« (Cement City) everyone is getting ready for the annual celebrations in honor of their beloved cement. But this time things turns out differently than planned. Young Annula is sick of living in the stiffling metropolis.With a single jump she springs on to the highest roof. From this position she announces that she will not come down again until the mayor fulfills all her demands for ... While she is waiting, she carries on conversations with her grandmother, meets the crazy old Sunday, last year's Christmas and lives from the clouds of candy stars and snow-juice with sun-rays. (8+)

Ireland (Gaelic)

248
Wynn, Gwyneth (text/illus.)
Micí Agus An Rí
(Micki and the King)
Dublin: An Gum, 1995. [26pp]
Dog - Curiosity - Runaway - Lion
Micky shares a house with Teddy. While Micky loves to watch television, Teddy doesn't approve. He prefers reading books. One day Micky sees a lion for the first time in his life - on television - and decides to go off to meet this king of the animal kingdom. His adventurous undertaking is well-rewarded, but he is happy to return home again to Teddy. This gentle, reassuring book is well-suited for reading aloud. The well-drawn pen-and-ink illustrations complement the simple storyline. (4+)

Man & Beast - Tales of Transformation

Individuals who take on animal shape - for whatever reason or cause - have always played an important role in the folk tales of peoples and cultures all around the world. This selection of recently published editions is just a foretaste of a major exhibition being shown from the end of September through November at the International Youth Library in Munich. The exhibition will focus in particular on the way that illustrators have interpreted these tales for youthful readers.
A catalog of the exhibtion will be available in the fall.

249 ***Swedish***
Arnold, Hans (comp./illus.)
Slottet vid silverskogen: Nordiska sagor
(The Castle of the Silver Forest. Nordic Tales)
Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 1980. 93pp
ISBN 91-29-54097-6
Pig - Princess - Soldier
In the tale »The Castle near Silver Forest« a soldier discovers a dirty, delapidated castle inhabited by a king and his twelve daughters, who, however, have been bewitched into pigs. He breaks the spell and takes, of course, the youngest princess to be his wife. (6+)

250 ***Swedish***
Borén, Gunilla (text)
Delin, Marika (illus.)
Råttprinsessan : eller Pojken som ville uppleva något underbart
(The Rat Princess: or The Boy Who Wanted to Experience Something Wonderous)
Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 1990. 28pp
ISBN 91-29-59093-0
Rat - Princess
In this variation of the Russian tale »The Czar's Daughter Frog« a rat turns into a princess for the youngest of three brothers. (6+)

251 ***English***
Chang, Margaret and Raymond (text)
Hutton, Warwick (illus.)
The Cricket Warrior. A Chinese Tale
New York: Margaret K. McElderry, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 0-689-50605-8
Cricket - Warrior - Emperor
When a young boy loses the fighting cricket his father had caught in order to pay the emperor's tax and save their farm, an old man gives him the chance to turn himself into a cricket. He proves to be a clever and fearless fighter and is taken to fight before the emperor. In this way he becomes an honor to his family and the old man once again allows him to become a boy and rejoin his parents. First recorded by a writer and teacher in the 17th century, this story features important elements of Chinese folklore - magical transformation and family loyalty. The full-page illustrations portray the rural Chinese landscape in delicate glowing watercolors.(6+)

252 ***German***
Gebert, Helga (ed./illus.)
Mutabor. Märchen der Verwandlung.
(Mutabor. Fairy Tales of Metamorphoses).
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1988. [252pp]
ISBN 3-407-80021-5
These 21 tales present various transformations which illuminate the complex relationship between the human soul and the animal soul, as proven in depth psychology. The editors's pictures, which show the diversity of the transformations, give this small and exquisitely designed book its considerable charm. (8+)

253 ***German***
Grimm, Brüder (text)
Schroeder, Binette (illus.)
Der Froschkönig (King of Frogs)
Zürich: Nord-Süd, 1989. [28 pp]
ISBN 3-314-00336-6
Frog - Princess - Violence
To do the wrong thing and get the correct result - that is the quintessence of this tale. The princess does not want to keep her promise to the helpful frog, that he eat from her plate and sleep in her bed, and in anger she finally throws him against the

wall. And lo and behold! In this case, self-defense and violence have helped. Before her stands a handsome prince. These are some of Binette Schroeder's loveliest fairy tale illustrations. (8+)

254 *German*
Hauff, Wilhelm (text)
Čapek, Jindra (illus.)
Die Geschichte von Kalif Storch (The Story of Caliph Stork)
Zürich: bohem press, 1994. [36pp]
ISBN 3-85581-271-3
Stork - Code - Love

The illustrator gives the Caliph of Bagdad and his great Vizir the unmistakeable features of storks and men. Full-page illustrations reflect the splendor of the Orient and the expanse of its landscape. Not only in content but also in its imagery, an Oriental world in all its splendor is presented which at once interprest and depicts the Hauff tale. (6+)

255 *English*
Hooks, William H. (text)
Lisi, Victoria (illus.)
Snowbear Whittington. An Appalachian Beauty and the Beast
New York: Macmillan, 1994. [52pp]
ISBN 0-002-744355-8
Bear

The author has taken oral versions of tale told in the mountain region of Appalachia in the eastern USA, that is based on the European tale brought by settlers many generations ago. After betraying the secret of her husband to her ailing father, Nell first earns three gifts, a pecan, a chestnut and an acorn from an old woman to help her find her husband and release him from the witches spell. Illustrated in black-and-white and color pictures which portray the landscape, the dress and traditional way of life in Appalacia. (8+)

256 *English*
Hunter, Mollie (text)
McDermott, Dennis (illus.)
Gilly Martin the Fox
New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1994. 36pp
ISBN 1-56282-518-6
Fox - Prince - Princess

Gilly Martin, the fox, enjoys sticking his nose in other people's business. So he comes to help the bewitched Prince Alban fulfill his tasks. As Gilly can change himself into any shape he likes, he heipps the princess overcome many hurdles on his quest. Full-page illustrations give a traditional interpretation of the storyline. (6+)

257 *Catalan*
Janer Manila, Gabriel (adapt.)
Ballester, Arnal (illus.)
La Mòpia (Proper name)
Barcelona: La Galera, 1995. [28pp]
(El sac de la Galera; Sac de dracs; 9)
ISBN 84-246-4209-0
Black swan

This is an adaptation of a New Zealand tale, that is also told in various versions by peoples of other islands in the South Pacific. The name Mòpia comes from the Balearic Islands and stands for a fabulous creature of the sea. This tale tells of a land, devastated by drought and starvation, where a young man searching for anything edible fishes a Mòpia from a pond. In spite of all warnings, he insists on taking his catch home. This has catastrophic consequences. The island is inundated and all the inhabitants are transformed into black swans which can be seen swimming about even today. (8+)

258 *German*
Janosch (text/illus.)
Der Froschkönig
(The Frog Prince)
Zürich: Diogenes, 1984. [35pp]
ISBN 3-257-00647-0
Frog - Promise - Violence

Janosch turns the transformation completely around here. A spoiled little frog princess is transformed into a »human being in clothing«. To reverse the transformation, she must be taken underwater »in the sweat-box« by young frog, and thus healed of her rebelliousness. Wanting to be rid of this burdomsome girl, the young frog does just the right thing, and gets his princess. (6+)

259 ***French***

Leprince de Beaumont, Jeanne-Marie (text)
Boiry, Véronique (illus.)
La Belle et la Bête
(Beauty and the Beast)
Paris: Hachette, 1992. 44pp
ISBN 2-01-019722-4
Bridegroom - Love - Redemption

The illustrator makes use of the fact that the tale never describes the beast by merely gives him a mask, leaving his human form visible. Beauty is portrayed as a clever, lively girl, full of self-assurance. While the people are full of movement, the beast is frozen in statue-like poses. This edition is generously illustrated with numerous, sometimes full-paged water-color illustrations in which weather and light conditions play a particular role. (8+)

260 ***French***

Leprince de Beaumont, Jeanne-Marie (text)
Bosch, Jérôme (illus.)
La Belle et la Bête
(Beauty and the Beast)
Paris: Circonflexe, 1994. 48pp
ISBN 2-87833-121-4
Love - Redemption

In this paperback series a literary classic and excerpts from pictures by a famous painter, who belongs to a completely different age. are brought together by the publisher. The result, especially here with the works of Bosch, is particularly stunning. The beast is portrayed by a demon, domesticized by Beauty the biblical virgin. In this way the symbolic content of the tale takes on apocalyptic dimensions. (8+)

261 ***English***

MacGill-Callahan, Sheila (text)
Spirin, Gennady (illus.)
The Children of Lir
New York: Dial, 1993. [32pp]
ISBN 0-8037-1122-0
Swan - Princess - Prince

In this version of an Irish myth, the step-mother and aunt of the four children of King Lir is so jealous of the children that she places a magic spell on them, changing them into swans. Only when the peaks of two mountains are joined would the spell be broken. On an Irish island called Inneskeel stone carvings of four figures and four swans can still be seen. Spirin uses this landscape in his many exquisitely detailed pictures of all the trials and tribulations of Lir and his children. (6+)

262 ***English***

MacGill, Callahan, Sheila (text)
Waldherr, Kris (illus.)
The Seal Prince
New York: Dial Books, 1995. [32pp]
ISBN 0-8037-1487-4
Seal - Princess - Marriage

When she was eight-years-old a princess rescues a young seal on the beach. Returning each year to the shore, the seal reveals himself as the Seal Prince when she is eighteen, and asks her to come live in his kingdom under the sea, Tir nan Og, the bright land of the forever young. Out of loyalty to her elderly parents and her duty as heir to the kingdom, she refuses him, but also turns down every other suitor for many years. Their love for each other remains so strong that in the end he agrees to live with her on land until their first-born child can inherit the throne. Watercolor illustrations render the main elements of the story over the course of years. (6+)

263 ***English***

Napoli, Donna Jo (text)
Schachner, Judith Byron (illus.)
The Pickpocket of the Palace
New York: Dutton, 1995. 166pp
ISBN 9-525-45357-1
Frog - Princess - Witch

This is the equally hilarious sequel to Napoli's „The

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Prince of the Pond", the ingenious story of the life of the prince who was transformed into a frog by the wicked witch up until his fatal meeting with the princess and her golden ball. Here we meet one of his frog-sons who is so curious about his father that he also heads for the castle and is transformed, at least temporarily, into a boy. Napoli places the interrelationship between man and animal not only in a magical context, but also touches on the moral aspect of human responsibility. (8+)

264 ***Japanese***
Ozawa, Toshio (re-teller)
Akaba, Suekichi (illus.)
Miruna no kura
(The Forbidden Chamber)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1989. 36pp
ISBN 4-8340-0831-2
Nightingale

Lured by the lovely voice of the nightingale, the wood-gatherer wanders around lost in the forest, until he comes upon a beautiful house. The lady of the house, the nightingale transformed, gives him shelter, but forbids him to open the door to the twelfth chamber. Nonetheless he dares to do so, and finds himself once again alone in the forest. This Japanese folk tale exhibits a structure which exemplifies the difference between European and Japanese variations on the motif of „the forbidden chamber." The illustrations are painted in colorful, genre-style scenes full of theatrical and psychological elements. (6+)

265 ***Swedish***
Rehnman, Mats
Lerflöjten
(The Clay Flute)
Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, [1987]. [26pp]
ISBN 91-29-58092-7
Flute - Ape

Abeli the flute player is turned into an ape. A girl hears him playing, kisses him and breaks the magic spell. (6+)

266 ***Ladin***
Rossi, Hugo de (text)
D'Este, Alessandra (illus.)
Chiocchetti, Fabio (transl.)
La ziriola de Saslonch
(The Nightingale of Saslong)
Vich/Vigo di Fassa: Istitut Cultural Ladin, 1994. [28pp]
(Conta Conties; 19)
ISBN 88-86053-08-8
Princess - Nightingale - Knight - Unrequited love - Death

A knight falls in love with a nightingale, which is in reality a princess who possesses the power of metamorphosis. The knight senses that there is something more to the bird, but when the princess refuses to reveal her true self, he dies of lovesickness and unrequited love. Through his death the princess loses the ability to return to her human form. This old tale, illustrated with naive-style paintings, was first translated into German at the turn of the century by Hugo de Rossi, who did much to preserve the Ladin tradition. (4+)

267 ***Japanese***
Satō, Satoru (text)
Murakami, Tsutomu (illus.)
Kitsune Sankichi
(Sankichi the Fox)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1984. [36pp]
ISBN 4-03-963220-6
Fox - Love

Borrowing from the Japanese folk tale in which shape-changing animals such as the fox or the badger play a part, this author - who is otherwise known for his fantasy writings - has created a memorable story about the love between the daughter of a blacksmith and his apprentice, though it is not known whether the apprentice is a man or a fox. The sensitive illustrations, unmistakably those of T. Murakami, take the reader into a fairy-tale world at the foot of the beautiful Japanese mountain landscape. (7+)

268 *German*

Waechter, Friedrich Karl (text/illus.)
Die Mondtücher (Moon Carpets)
Zürich: Diogenes, 1988. [24pp]
ISBN 3-257-00699-3
Frog - Ape - Promise - Love
A monkey in a silvery moon gown is taken for a prince and all the girls court him. The real prince dances with a toad, which is thereupon transformed into the most beautiful princess. The satirical core of this fairy-tale like story is clear, supported graphically by full-page pictures.

269 *Japanese*

Yagawa, Sumiko (re-teller)
Horie, Hiroko (illus.)
Ryū ni natta musume
(The Girl Who Turned into a Dragon)
Tokyo: Fukutake shoten, 1988. 32pp
ISBN 4-8288-1342-X
Dragon - Beauty
This is a retelling of a legend from northern Japan about a girl who is obsessed with the idea of finding eternal youth and beauty and is ready to give up her human existence to win them. She changes herself into a dragon. Her passionate wish is especially well expressed in the intensive, artistic illustrations. (8+)

270 *Japanese*

Yagawa, Sumiko (re-teller)
Akaba, Suekichi (illus.)
Tsurunyōbō
(The Crane Woman)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1979. 32pp
no ISBN
Crane - Gratitude - Prohibition
This folk tale tells about the gratitude of a crane whose life was saved by a farmer. The crane transforms itself into a beautiful woman and marries the farmer. Their happiness is destroyed when the man breaks the rule and snatches a glimpse at his wife's true form. She is transformed again into a crane and flies away forever. The aesthetic elements which are immanent in this most beautiful of Japanese folk tales are given full expression in Suekichi Akaba's watercolor-and-ink paintings on Japanese paper. (5+)

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The White Ravens 1997

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

INTERNATIONALE JUGEND BIBLIOTHEK München
International Youth Library

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Impressum

The White Ravens 1997
A Selection of International
Children's and Youth Literature

Editor: Dr. Barbara Scharioth

Selection:

East-Asian Languages
Fumiko Ganzenmüller (Japanese)
Chou, Fay Huilin (Chinese)

English
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German
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Editorial Work: Jochen Weber
Translation: Martha Baker

Layout: Edda Greif
Cover photo: Dr. Barbara Scharioth
Illustration (page 1): Helme Heine
© Middelhauve Verlag
Typesetting: Thomas Pleiner
Printed by: Danuvia Druckhaus

This publication is available from:
Internationale Jugendbibliothek
Schloss Blutenburg
D-81247 München
Germany
Tel.: +49-89 891211-0
Fax: +49-89 8117553

INTERNA-
TIONALE
JUGEND
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München
International Youth Library

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White Ravens 1997

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Internationale Jugendbibliothek
München

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Preface

The »White Ravens« catalog has become a solid tradition over the years. Throughout each year the language specialists (Lektoren) at the International Youth Library (IYL) pick out newly published books which they consider especially noteworthy: the white ravens among the black ravens. This »premium label« is given to books of international interest which deserve a wider reception on account of their universal theme and/or their exceptional and often innovative artistic and literary style and design.

This publication appears each year just prior to the Children's Book Fair in Bologna and is presented, along with the books themselves, at that international gathering of subject specialists. This year's collection contains ***275 titles in 23 languages from 43 countries.*** *It certainly makes no claim to being exhaustive. The titles are drawn from the books which the IYL received as review or donation copies in 1996 from publishers around the world. Unfortunately, not all publishing houses which consistently and generously supply the IYL with their books can be featured here every year. Still, we cordially thank each and every one of them for their shipments of books.*

We can assure our donors that their books will be cataloged, indexed by subject and included in our depository collection. In this way they are permanently available for use by the international clientele of specialists who visit our study library, make use of our reference services from afar, or consult our catalogs per Internet (via the Bavarian Library Network). Over the years many books also find their way into thematic travelling exhibitions, topical bibliographies and lists, activity programs for children, etc.

In this catalog some books are given additional labels. First of all, there are ***»special mentions«*** *to which the library's Lektoren wish to draw particular attention. The* ***symbol*** ✧ *marks those books whose content is found to contribute to an international understanding among cultures and people. In this way we remind ourselves and our readers of the working maxim under which Jella Lepman founded the International Youth Library and which in these times is still of utmost concern. The* ***symbol*** ☼ *is assigned to books whose text is judged to be easily understandable, i.e. easy-to-read texts, and yet dealing with topics of interest to older children. Hence these books are well-suited to foreign-language readers and for inclusion in foreign language collections of public and school libraries.*

For the third time this catalog also includes a short section dedicated to a special topic. This year's special bibliography deals with newer books in the highly successful IYL travelling exhibition titled »Young and Old - Generations in Dialog«. In this manner, we want to highlight one of the aspects of our work as intermediaries for children's literature.

We have been asked about the reasons for organizing the catalogue on the basis of languages and language groups. We know that our system is not perfect and that a group of »other languages« is left over. Yet we believe we have found a system which makes the catalog easy to use.

Last but not least, we renew our request to all publishers: Please continue to send us your new titles. We, for our part, will endeavor to fulfill the expectation that the International Youth Library in Munich is the home of the most comprehensive collection of international literature for children and young people.

Dr. Barbara Scharioth, March 1997

East Asian Languages

Japan

1
Funakoshi, Kanna (text)
Izawa, Yôji (illus.)
Sorani
(In the sky)
Tokyo: Suemori Books, 1995. [36 p]
ISBN 4-915777-13-8
Balloon - Loss - Treasure - Sky

A young girl accidentally lets loose the string of her treasured new red balloon and runs after it for a long time, trying to catch it. When it disappears at last, high in the sky, she suddenly feels very lonely. At sunset the sun turns the western horizon red, in the sky the crescent of the moon shines and the stars glow - the treasures of the universe. The very ingenious layout, in which both pictures and text are merely suggestive, inspire the imagination. In spite of the book's small format, the author conveys the boundless-ness of the sky and the familiarity of the universe. (6+)

2
Funazaki, Katsuhiko (text)
Akaba, Suekichi (illus.)
Nihon no shinwa. Zen 6kan
(Japanese Myths. Vols. 1-6)
1. Kuni no hajimari (Origins of Japan)
2. Ama no iwato (The heavenly cave of Ama no iwato)
3. Yamata no orochi (The eight-headed dragon)
4. Inaba no shirousagi (The white hare of Inaba)
5. Susanoo to Ookuninushi (Susanoo and Ookuninushi <gods>)
6. Umisachi Yamasachi (Umisachi and Yamasachi <gods>)
Tokyo: Akane shobo, 1995. Each [32pp]
ISBN 4-251-00821-9/00822-7/00823-5/00824-3/00825-1/00826-X
Japan/Myth

Japan's mystical world of gods and goddesses according to the oldest extant chronicle, the »Kojiki« (Records of Ancient Matters), is retold here in a concise narrative, accompanied by painterly, highly aesthetic illustrations. The Kojiki, which were collected and written down in 712 at the wish of the Genmei Tenno, include both the origin myths of Japan and the genealogy of many gods and goddesses and their deeds. The illustrator Akaba, who is especially known for his Japanese painting style, bases his impressive, authentic pictures for the most important episodes in this epic on ethnological and cultural historical research. Especially striking is the use of decorative elements, such as tender blossoms, in ominous scenes, in order to create a harmonious balance. (8+) ✧

3
Inada, Kazuko / Tsutsui, Etsuko
Nihon no mukashibanashi 1-3
(Japanese Folktales, Vols. 1-3)
Tokyo: Kogumasha, 1996. Each 192pp
ISBN 4-7721-9019-8 / -9021-X / -9022-8
Japan/Folk tales/Anthology

This is a collection of well-known and less well-known folk tales which have been meticulously reworked by the folktale researcher Inada and the experienced storyteller Tsutsui. It is especially well-suited for reading aloud. Expressions from the various regions of Japan, though they could present readers and listeners with problems, have to a certain degree been retained in the dialogues, sayings and in the forewords and afterwords, in order to render the original tales in as authentic an atmosphere as possible. (9+)

4
Itô, Hiroshi (text/illus.)
Daijôbu daijôbu
(It's alright, you'll survive)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1995. 31pp
(Ritoru; 13)
ISBN 4-06-252863-0
Grandfather - Grandchild - Protection - Wisdom - Encouragement

»Daijôbu« means »It's not so bad« or »It will be alright«. This is what a grandfather always tells his young grandson to soothe and encourage him when he has a problem with himself or the rest of the world. The grandfather has always been a grand playmate and passed along his knowledge and wisdom about the ways of the world, but now he is very old and lying in the hospital. The young boy wants in turn to encourage and comfort his beloved grandfather, to help him get well. This portrays a perfect image of the relationship

between generations, in text and in tender, humorous illustrations. (7+)
(27th Kodansha Cultural Prize in Publishing for Picture Books 1996)

5
Katayama, Ken (text/illus.)
Kokkochan no kakashi
(Kokko and her scarecrow)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 4-8340-1363-4
Scarecrow - Worry
The kind of happy childhood that children can have when adults find practical ways to understand their needs is shown in this picture book. Little Kokko, her brother and father have created a scarecrow that is actually put to use by a farmwife. The scarecrow is often on Kokko's mind, as she wonders will it survive the changes of weather, will it still be able to keep guard over the high stalks of rice and vegetables and what will happen to it after the harvest. The farmwife, standing for the author, quietly anticipates the child's cares and delights by caring for the scarecrow. In the powerful illustrations the figures are very much present, and the warm, earthy colors exude vitality and security. (4+)

6
Kitamura, Kenji (text)
Ishikura, Kinji (illus.)
Ginyanma tobu sora
(The sky where dragonflys fly)
Tokyo: Komine shoten, 1995. 327pp
ISBN 4-338-10707-3
Japan/China/War - Militarism - Childhood memories - Everyday life
This autobiographical novel documents childhood memories of the year 1940 when an escalation of the long-term conflict between Japan and China had led to militarism, even in the schools and the playgrounds. Goods are becoming scarce throughout the country, but the children nonetheless find ways to live and play as children do, even in times of war. They believe the lies they heard, tell lies themselves, sometimes unhappily, sometimes regretfully. They are afraid, but they also become acquainted with goodness and this gives them courage in difficult situations. This subtle anti-war book, which will help to deal with the past, is written in a naturalistic style that allows the reader to find his own critical approach to war and its side-effects. (11+) ✧
(36th Japanese Association of Writers for Children Prize 1996)

7
Lee, Sang Keum (text)
Hoashi, Jirô (illus.)
Hambun no furusato. Watashi ga Nihon ni itatoki no koto
(My other homeland. My childhood in Japan)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1995 (1993). 432pp
ISBN 4-8340-1180-1
Japan/Koreans - Emigration - Family life - Discrimination - Homeland - Autobiography
When Japan was defeated in 1945, nearly 1.6 million Koreans returned to Korean homeland within a year. Among them was the author, 15 years old then, who had been born and raised in Japan. Her parents were both victims of the Japanese colonialists. In describing her family life in Japan the author shows great respect for her mother, who despite discrimination and bullying never lost her patriotic pride and human dignity. Though everyday life was trying, there were still moments when the author met upright, honest Japanese or found comfort in nature. So she still considers Japan to be half of her homeland. This work casts light on the questions of homeland and of injustice toward other peoples. The sensitively designed cover illustration with typical Korean objects and the sparse, realistic illustrations accompany the text. (13+) ✧

8
Miyazawa, Kenji (text)
Sasameya, Yuki (illus.)
Gadorufu no yuri
(The lilies of the travelling Gadorufu)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1996. 32pp
ISBN 4-03-963680-5
Lily - Love - Dream
Children as well as adults still enjoy the works of the modern classic writer Kenji Miyazawa (1896-1933), but also many illustrators enjoy the challenge of portraying his imaginative world in their own way, because his unique use of language

is very stimulating. This picture book is an example of this phenomenon. The story tells of a momentary, intensive love of a traveller for the white lilies in a garden, which during a flash of lightening appear to him so proud and majestic. Sensuality and dreams are presented most impressively in these colorframed, lyrical pictures. (13+) (Shôgakukan Award for Illustration)

9
Miyazawa, Kenji (text)
Murakami, Tsutomu (illus.)
Oinomori to Zarumori, Nusutomori
(The Wolf's Forest, the Basket Forest, and the Thieves' Forest)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1996. 36pp
(Nihon no dôwa meisakusen)
ISBN 4-03-963650-3
Settlers - Nature spirits - Mountains - Forest - Harmony - Modern fairy tale
A group of farmer families begins to cultivate a wasteland surrounded by four mountains. Their efforts are rewarded, but over the course of time strange things occur - wolves capture their children, a mountain spirit steals their farming tools, a black giant from the mountains takes away their millet. Miyazawa (1896-1933), one of the most favourite modern-day classical writers for children and adults, takes the reader back to the earliest settlements of his homeland in northern Japan at the foot of the Iwate Mountain and shows how the mountains, forests and people lived alongside one another. The carefully composed paintings, with their somewhat stylized and fragmentary, finely outlined elements, highlight the engaging comical aspects of these fabulous tales. (10+)

10
Mizukami, Tsutomu (text)
Tsukasa, Osamu (illus.)
Nihon Ryôiki. Tôi mukashi no fushigina monogatari
(Miracle tales from old Japan. Buddhist moral tales)
Tokyo: Iwanami shoten, 1995. 198pp
ISBN 4-00-113134-X
Japan /Folk tale- Buddhism - Retribution - Belief - Moral
Japan's oldest collection of Setsuwa (Buddhist moral tales), »Nihon Ryôiki« (also Reiiki), was written down between 810-824 by the monk Kyôkai. These legends describe amazing events which occur in connection with the Buddhist principle of causality (the consequences of good or evil deeds). The 41 stories selected and adapted here for young readers depict, for instance, people who are reborn as animals, or a dead man who is sent back alive to the world of the living by the ruler of hell, or a talking skull. The folk tales and matters of belief are presented in a didactic manner, having originally served to teach listeners how to live in harmony with one another. For today's reader their appeal lies less in the religious content than in the concise, clear and vivid descriptions and the elements of fantasy. In the end one realizes that the human nature has not essentially changed and that death is never far removed from life. (13+) ✧

11
Saitô, Hiroshi (text)
Takabatake, Jun (illus.)
Gempei no kaze. Shirakomaki
(The storm between the tribes of Minamoto and Taira. The story of the fabulous white fox)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1996. 222pp
ISBN 4-03-744210-8
Fox/Man/Transformation - Self-knowledge - Hero - War - Meaninglessness - Japan/Middle Ages
Driven away by its mother, a young fox makes its own way in the world. Having learned the art of shape-changing from hermits, he goes to live among people. As a man the protagonist becomes caught up in historical events of the Middle Ages (12th century) and encounters famous war heros. From a cool and distanced perspective, he analyzes the deeds of those heros, which appear to some extent meaningless from today's point of view. This novel is a combination of several genres, combining elements of historical narration, fantasy, folk tale and Bildungsroman. Sequels are to follow. (12+) ✧

12
Sawada, Toshiki (text/illus.)
Afurika no oto. A story of West African drum & dance
(The sounds of Africa. A story of West African drum & dance)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1996. [35pp]
ISBN 4-06-207681-0
West Africa - Drum - Everyday life - Nature - Harmony

A goat-skin drum and dance are essential elements of west African culture. The making of the drum and its many uses in the everyday life of the African tribesmen is shown in this picture book, which uses the typical colors of the landscape. These pictures show how closely the lives of these peoples are related to their natural surroundings. (4+) ✧

☺ Special Mention

13
Sueyoshi, Akiko (text)
Fujikawa, Hideyuki (illus.)
Chi to ushio no ô
(The king of the land and the sea)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1996. 414pp
ISBN 4-06-208015-X
Japan/Myth <Motif>- Quest - Love - Curse - Woman/Serpent/Transformation - Reconciliation - Gods

Saru, an orphaned boy travelling with a theater troupe of dwarfs, is asked by the priestess-queen of the land of Amaguni to find her daughter, Mio, who had been set out to die because of her weak physical condition. During his search, Saru also discovers the key to his own ancestry. After setting off on his quest, accompanied by a brave and clever dwarf girl, he encounters a tribal chief whose wife has placed a curse on their daughter, Nagisa, causing her to turn into a serpent every night, until the curse is lifted. To fulfill this double quest, he travels all the way to the bottom of the ocean, the kingdom of eternal life, where he finds Mio and Nagisa's mother, the daughter of the god of the sea. He succeeds in overcoming many difficulties and restoring harmony in both worlds. In this turbulent story, which contains elements of Japanese mythology, the author focuses in particular on the emotions of humans and gods regarding love. Through the detailed and colorful narrative, the reader is transported into an engrossing world of ancient times. This novel is a delightful rarity in the Japanese fantasy genre. (12+) ✧

14
Tomiyasu, Yôko (text)
Iino, Kazuyoshi (illus.)
Chiisana yamagami Suzuna-hime
(Princess Suzuna, the young mountain spirit)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1996. 134pp
ISBN 4-03-528310-X
Nature god - Father/ Daughter - Independence - Challenge - Promise

Princess Suzuna wants to break out of her sheltered life and finally have at least one mountain to rule herself. Her father, the great mountain who rules over all mountains and looks after all animals and nature, decides to test the abilities of his daughter. On one day she must give all the leaves on the mountain their autumn colors so that the animals can get ready for their winter sleep. This cheery, modern fairy tale, with its clearly drawn characters, is told in a refreshing voice. The headstrong, spontaneous and energetic protagonist, as she is shown in the illustrations, makes the book especially appealing. In three sequel volumes, the princess is given further challenges to deal with. (8+)

15
Uji, Isao (text/illus.)
Tententen yukiakari
(Toot, toot, toot .... in the snow)
Tokyo: Shikosha, 1995. [24pp]
no ISBN
Street-car - Snow - Signal - City-landscape

A street-car passes by scenery which is shown as in snapshot photos. »Toot, toot, toot...« sounds the clear signal at the crossings, breaking the stillness of the snowy surroundings. Animals run across the tracks, street workers climb in a ditch, a thief clambers over a wall, a man is heading home. The repetition of the onomatopoetic words for the signal sound convey the passage of the street-car. The steadily falling snow and gentle reflections of light makes the reader conscious of the stillness of

the snowbound city inspite of the lively movements of the characters. (3+)
(43rd Sankei Award for Children's Books & Publications [JR-Prize] 1996)

16
Yumoto, Kazumi
Haru no orugan
(The organ in spring)
Tokyo: Tokuma shoten, 1995. 240pp
ISBN 4-19-860250-6
Feelings - Growing up - Family conflict - Siblings - Grandfather
Twelve-year-old Tomomi is about to enter Middle School, but she feels fairly indifferent about it and cannot enjoy her spring holidays. She is dissatisfied with herself and the conflicts of her parents and with her neighbor weigh upon her mind. Her grandfather's interest in the family heirlooms seems equally senseless. The old, defective organ which her grandfather finds in the closet symbolizes the mental state of the protagonist, her passage from childhood to adolescence, but also her grandfather's silent wish to bring the family, which seems about to disintegrate, back together again. (12+)

People's Republic of China

(Romanization according to German norms)

17
Caihui ben zhongguo minjian gushi
(Colored treasury of folktales from China)
1. **Gu, Jun (adapt.)**
Tang, Yongli (illus.)
Hasake zu (The Kazakh people)
2. **Ruo, Wen (adapt.)**
Dawo'er zu (The Daghur people)
3. **Yi, Chuan (adapt.)**
Hu, Shourong / Hu, Junrong (illus.)
Yao zu (The Yao people)
Each: Hangzhou: Zhejiang-Shaonian-Ertong-Chubanshe, 1990. 45pp
ISBN 7-5342-0786-x/0780-0/0783-5
China/Folktales/Legends - Kazakh - Daghur - Yao
In this extensive series, of which three examples have been selected here, folktales from the various regions of multiethnic China are represented. Each volume contains two richly illustrated stories from one ethnic group. Each volume is illustrated by a different artist. The traditional Chinese style of illustration art predominates, but some artists give their work individual touches, thus creating a new approach to the subject. In the appendix of each volume one finds additional information and pictures and photos which give further details about the ethnic group, especially their traditional manner of dress. (10+) ✧

18
Cao, Yuzhang (Editor in chief)
Zhongguo chuatong wenhua gushi huicui
(Collection of stories from the traditional culture of China)
2. **Lu, Zhui (adapt.)**
Liu, Jian (illus.)
Zhengyi de weiyi. Jiecao pian
(The dignity of justice. A book of moral integrety) 72pp
4. **Chen, Yongyao (adapt.)**
Wu, Shanming (illus.)
Chengcai de zuji. Chengcai pian
(Footsteps of virtous development. The book of virtue) 82pp
1. **Chen, Bei / Zheng, Chao (adapt.)**
Wu, Sheng (illus.)
Yishu de fengcai. Yishu pian
(The charms of art. A book of art) 77pp
Each: Hangzhou: Zhejiang-Shaonian-Ertong-Chubanshe, 1994.
ISBN 7-5338-1404-5/1398-7/1400-2
China/Traditional stories - Justice - Virtue - Art
This ten-volume series, with its lovely design in square format, is a collection of stories from the traditonal culture of China. Usually each double-page spread includes one story and, on the facing page, a colored illustration. Each volume is illustrated by a different artist. As in the series above (cat. no. 17), the pictures employ the traditional Chinese illustration art. The colored backgrounds call to mind fine paper. The occasional use of stamps (seals) and Chinese characters, vertical formats, rounded edges and the stylistic reduction of figures, plants and landscapes lend these books their visual approach. (10+)

East Asian Languages

Republic of China (ROC)

(Romanization according to German norms)

19
Guan, Jiaqi
Zhenzhu naicha de youhuo
(The lure of the girl shaking ice tea)
Taibei: Youshi (Youth Cultural Publishing), 1995. 199pp
ISBN 957-530-723-2
China/Short stories - Love - Romance - Sexual love -Adolescence

In these 16 stories the author depicts the feelings and experiences of modern teenagers in Taiwan - their sexual fantasies, friendships, first romance, anxieties, etc. In one story a boy watches a young girl shaking ice tea, her movement emphasizing her young, sensual figure. That night she becomes a pin-up girl in his dreams and his bedding is stained in the morning. He realizes that he is becoming a young man. He begins to buy a cup of tea each day, just to watch her shaking the ice tea. (13+)

☺ Special Mention

20
Lin, Haiyin (text)
Guan, Weixing (illus.)
Cheng nan jiu shi 1-3
(Huianguan de Xiaoguizi; Women kan hai qu. Lan Yiniang; Lü dagun'r. Baba de huar luole)
(Xiaoguizi of Huianguan; We are going to the sea. The conkubine Lan; The donkey tosses and turns. Father's flowers are drooping)
Taibei: Gelin Wenjua (Grimm Press), 1994. Each 64pp
ISBN 957-754-023-7 (-024-5; -024-3; 026-1)
China/Short stories

In these beautifully drawn and well-told picture books, a six-year old narrator tells about people she met during her childhood in Beijing: a lunatic woman looking for her lover and her deserted baby, an orphaned girl forced by her foster father to earn money by singing, a thief who steals for his brother's sake. Each tale is an excellent characterization of human nature. The stories have been classics for adults and young people for many years in Taiwan. This picture book edition has excellent portrayals of people, well-researched attention to details of clothing and tools, and meticulous use of light and space to create perfect harmony with the text. (11+) ✧

21
Sun, Qingfeng (text)
Zhao, Guozong (illus.)
Shei chi le caihong?
(Who ate the rainbow?)
Taibei: Xinyi Jijin Chubanshe (Hsing-I Foundation), 1995. [20pp]
ISBN 957-642-204-3
Rainbow - Transformation

Wonderous things happen to the animals and the tree that come into contact with the rainbow. When Uh-oh, the rainbow is cut in half by a kite string, it is eaten by a big fish, which is in turn eaten by a duck, which lays a rainbow egg. The snake eats the egg and acquires rainbow colors. When it touches a withered tree, the tree is immediately restored to life and even bears rainbow fruit. This simple, imaginative tale is accompanied by beautiful illustrations done initially on ceramic surfaces. (5+) ☼

22
Xai, Ruihong
Ashima de huisheng
(Ashima's echo)
Taibei: Shibao Wenhua (China Times Publishing), 1995. 149pp
ISBN 957-13-1709-8
Marriage - Escape - Wizard - Echo

Based on a famous narrative poem found among the Sa-Ni peoples of Yunnan in southern China, this young adult novel tells the story of a beautiful young girl who is courted by many young men. When she turns down the landlord's only son, the landlord kidnaps her, but before the marriage can take place she is rescued by her brother. Angry and insulted, the landlord has a wizard invoke a storm which causes Ah-Shih-Ma to be lost in the mountains. When her brother and the villagers search for her and call her name, they hear nothing but an echo. This vividly descriptive narrative blends traditional poetry with modern language in an exquisitely designed volume. (11+) ✧

East Asian Languages

23
Xia, Zuli
Haijiao Tianya chiziqing
(The feeling of newborns on the other side of the world)
Taibei: Minshengbao (Min Sheng Daily), 1995. 185pp
ISBN 957-8932-48-0
Parent/Child - Separation - Loneliness

During his summer holidays, 13-year-old Vi-Shin goes to San Francisco to study. His uncle's family treats him like a lodger. He senses the separation from his family, living in a country he knew only from movies and television. More and more Taiwanese parents are sending their children abroad, where they lead the lives of semi-orphans. Mean-while their parents must work very hard to afford this. Both sides wonder at times whether it is worth all the disadvantages. The implications of this practice are told in six realistic short stories. (10+) ◇

English Language

Africa

Ghana

24
Dadson, Nana (text)
Sutherland, Ralph (illus.)
Suma went walking
n.p.: Afram Publications, 1996. 16pp
(Excl. dist. by African Books Collective, Oxford)
ISBN 9964-70-144-6
Africa/Animals - Size - Comparison

In this easy-to-read text a little girl encounters a series of animals who compare her size to theirs. She wonders how she can be so many contradictory things at the same time. Then the turtle explains that what she is doesn't depend on what other people say. Each of the strikingly well-drawn ink drawings is overlaid with two colors. (4+) ○

Kenya

25
King, Bridget (ed./text)
Marks, Jonti / Leggat, Gillian (text)
Miranda, Robin (illus.)
The magic drum. Stories from Africa's savannah, sea and skies
Nairobi: Jacaranda Designs, 1996. 64pp
ISBN 9966-884-05-X
South Africa/Fable - Kenya/Fable - Animal - Pride - Dreams - Fear

This volume encompasses three modern animal fables set in Kenya and South Africa. All the animals living near the waterhole enjoy dancing to the sounds of Fodo the Frog's magic drum but one day when his dancing friends destroy a farmer's garden, he nearly gets caught and eaten. Now, though we hear his drumming, he shies away from men. Laika, a romantic young crab, learns not to see her dream of prince charming more realisti-cally after her search for footprints (which she mistakenly understands as »foot prince«) leads her to spend a night alone on the shore. And, finally, the never-satisfied little red bird, who continually persuades his creator to change his shape and improve his status, gets his just reward. The comic and dramatic turn in of these fantasy tales are well-matched by the bold colors on the full-page illustrations done by a self-taught airbrush artist who skilfully captures the African settings and animal life. (4+)

Namibia

26
Utley, Jaspar
Ngoma and Click. Namibian detective stories
Windhoek: Gamsberg Macmillan, 1995. 107pp
ISBN 0-86848-953-0
Detective - Shaman

These nine detective stories introduce Ngoma and Click, a shaman and his Bushman companion, an odd pair of detectives whose powers of observation and ability to reasoning are reminiscent of Sherlock and Watson or even Detective Columbo though, in addition, they draw upon their cultural knowledge and African traditions to solve each case. Each story is set in a different part of Namibia and contains interesting details of social and family customs and provides a glimpse of some aspects of modern life, ranging from industrial espionage, illegal smuggling, racial hatred or marital strife. The excellent characterization and vivid storytelling make this book of suspenseful tales hard to put down. (12+)

27
DeVincent, Stephen (comp.)
The orphan calf and the magical cheetah.
Cheetah poems, essays and illustrations by
the Namibian people
Windhoek: New Namibia Books, 1996. 77pp
(Excl. dist. by African Books Collective, Oxford)
ISBN 99916-31-54-2
Cheetah - Endangered animals - Animal protection

This attractively designed nonfiction book is a literary collage designed to inform, motivate and also to entertain readers of all ages. The cheetah is an endangered animal with a global population of only 12,500. Though protected by law in Namibia since 1975, more active protection is needed. Interspersed with factual details about the cheetah on colorful double-page spreads in this anthology is a broad selection of poetry, essays, short stories and artwork from Namibian young people. A glossary explains many basic terms and concepts.The paperbound book is printed on high-quality glossy paper and the illustrations are excellently reproduced. (10+)

South Africa

28
Carvalho, Carlos (text/illus.)
Zizi & !Xau. The eagle calls
Cape Town: Human & Rousseau, 1996. 64pp
ISBN 0-7981-3637-5
Africa/History - Quest - Friendship - Gold - Adventure

This precisely drawn, long narrative comic book is a historical adventure story set in the pre-colonial days at the center of Great Zimbabwe. Two boys from different tribes with different languages meet and become loyal friends while travelling alone away from their tribal homes. They endure a period of humane captivity in another gold-mining tribe which is then attacked by war-mongers (aided by a lone rifle-carrying white man), and help to save the tribal treasure. The protagonists are appealing and the plot is rich in background detail. An appendix supplies a map and a description of things used in the story. There is already a sequel available. (8+)

29
D'Arcy, M. Cassiem
Rage of the sea wind
Cape Town: Tafelberg, 1996. 113pp
ISBN 0-624-03467-4
Death - Fishing - Poverty

After his father's death, the 13-year-old Muslim boy Amien becomes head of the family and struggles to help his mother support all three children in the impoverished fishing village. Their trekfishermen friends rally to their defense when Amien's rich uncle demands that they hand over the coveted fishing license and a small chest of family heirlooms from the East Indies. In spite of the uncle's wily ways and midnight raid, a chance turn of events lets Amien learn the monetary value of their treasures, which will help the children to obtain training for better jobs. This highly suspenseful tale of adventure, courage, family loyalty and ambition is told in a rich narrative by a South African-born medical practitioner. A glossary of Muslim and fishing-related terms is included. (12+)

30
Merwe, Louise van der (text)
Grimsdell, Jeremy (illus.)
Heroes and Lionhearts
Durban: Gecko Books, 1996. 54pp
ISBN 1-875011-10-2
Heroes - Animal/Man

These twelve heart-warming stories set in modern-day South Africa feature animals and humans who have risked their lives to save others, sometimes at terrible costs. The author, a journalist and animal rights campaigner, uses a clear style mixing factual background detail and the first-hand dialogs and commentary of those involved to present the gripping events in an easy-to-read narrative. (8+) ☼

31
Stewart, Dianne (text)
Daly, Jude (illus.)
The gift of the sun
Cape Town: Tafelberg, 1996. [28pp]
(in coproduction with Frances Lincoln, London)
ISBN 0-624-03452-6
Africa/Folktale - Husband/Wife - Laziness - Farm

Thulani, a lazy farmer who has one cow but yearns only to bask in the sun, tries in turn a number of different money-making schemes by selling his cow for a goat, his goat for a sheep, his sheep for geese, and his geese for sunflower seeds. His long-suffering wife nearly dispairs, until she finds that the sunflower seeds cause her chickens to lay more eggs. With their additional income from the eggs, Thulani begins to enjoy his new occupation of buying and trading. The warmly colored, abstract-naive pictures are an excellent complement to the entertaining tale. (5+)

Zimbabwe

☺ Special Mention

32
Alumenda, Stephen (text/illus.)
How Thopo became a great n'anga
Harare: Baobab Books/Academic Books, 1996. 30pp
(Excl. dist. by African Books Collective, Oxford)
ISBN 0-908311-89-3
Homeless boy - Village life - Identity

Thopo is an orphan, »street boy«, an outsider in a Zimbabwean village where cultural rules and beliefs still play an important role. Brave and mischieveous, he resists all efforts to find him a family or send him to school, and is, of course, secretly envied by the other children. One day he even dares to challenge the village wiseman, the »n'anga«, the only person allowed to touch the sacred python Thopo has found. Thopo negotiates a deal with the n'anga, but soon disappears for several months. Then, to everyone's surprise, a new role is established for him in the village in a ceremony organized by the old n'anga. This is a contemporary folktale about real-life relationships which are governed by traditional beliefs and practices. The unity of story with the black-and-white illustrations, typography and layout is quite striking. (8+) ✧

English Language

Asia and Oceania

Australia

33
Berolah, Lorraine / Collins, Lilyjane (text)
Cristaudo, Noel (text/illus.)
Betty and Bala and the proper big pumpkin
St. Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 0-7022-2938-5
Brother/Sister - Grandmother - Shopping - Everyday life - Adventure

A brother and sister set off with their grandmother to buy the missing ingredient for a special dish and nearly lose it several times in the course of their leisurely shopping jaunt. This simple but expressive story about children experiencing an everyday adventure is greatly enhanced by the excellently drafted drawings colored in warm, bright shades which convey the relaxed atmosphere of a fishing village on Thursday Island in the Torres Straits of northern Australia. (5+)

34
Caswell, Brian
Asturias
St. Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 1996. 233pp
ISBN 0-7022-2877-X
Music - Rock-band - Grandfather - Friendship - Loyalty - Death

Caswell is a master of the art of telling a story from a sequence of different perspectives. Here he lets each member of a young successful teenage rock group tell their side of the story. From the intriguing prelude to the end, the story is overshadowed by the magical influence of one of the band-member's long-dead Spanish uncle, a guitar-player obsessed with music. The plot revolves at the immediate level around the personal costs of fame and fortune, while the motifs of power, personal integrity, guilt, caring and friendship mark the conflicts and resolution of the dramatic course of events. The complex and interwoven storyline resembles one found today in televised serials, but its literary versatility make up for the novel's occasional clichéd elements. (13+)

☺ Special Mention

35
Crew, Gary (text)
Woolman, Steven (illus.)
Caleb <Proper name>
Flinders Park: Era, 1996. [48pp]
ISBN 1-86374-248-4
Man/Insect - Transformation - Mystery

One is immediately struck by the way the story and illustration fully complement one another. On each page the spaciously laid-out text is printed over full-page ochre-coloured chalk and pencil drawings of insects of shapes and sizes. The plot is gradually unfolded by the first person narrator as he recalls his relationship with Caleb, a highly unusual fellow student of botany who bears an uncanny resemblence to the insects they study. The various events in the course of their year together, which allow the narrator to sense just how different Caleb is, are captured in subtly revealing black ink drawings. Crew's ending comes not unexpectedly, but succeeds in leaving the reader with a spine-tingling sense of uneasiness. (10+)

36
Disher, Garry
Walk twenty, run twenty
Sydney: Angus&Robertson, 1996. 81pp
ISBN 0-207-18814-9
Death - Grief - Family - Crime - Detective

After his parents' death, Rick must go to live with his cousins' family in the sheep-herding Razorback. His three cousins have little understanding for his grief and he can't fit into their family life. One day, Rick and his cousins try to thwart the theft of the sheep herd by three violent thieves. In order to conserve his energy and stay calm in moments of danger, Rick recalls several pieces of advice his father had given him. He is instrumental in outwitting the thieves and the bond that is formed with his cousins helps Rick to start moving on with his life. The first person narrative succeeds in capturing Rick's inner turmoil while also conveying the rural atmosphere. The suspenseful turn of plot makes great reading. (10+)

English Language /Australia

37
Earls, Nick
After January
St. Lucia: University of Queensland Press,
1996. 195pp
ISBN 0-7022-2823-0
Romance - First Love

While waiting to receive notice of acceptance at university in a few weeks, Alex idles away the days at their seaside cottage, punctuated by sparse communication with his single-parent mother. This mother-son companionship, which has been central to his life, shifts as Alex unexpectedly meets a girl his own age. As Fortuna and Alex begin to discover one another, with all their differences in background and aspirations, everything else in Alex's life fades into the background. This witty, first-person narrative is marked by inner monologs and detached observations which map Alex's path toward manhood and self-realization. This novel captures a period of late adolescence in an ordinary life which, notably, is not fraught with family conflicts or adverse social circumstances. (15+)

38
Kuchling, Gerald (text)
Kuchling, Gundi (illus.)
Yakkin the swamp tortoise. The most dangerous year
Flinders Park: Era Publications, 1996. [32pp]
(Orig. publ. Chelonia Enterprises, 1995)
ISBN 1-86374-272-7
Tortoise - Wildlife conservation

This well-written narrative-style information book presents the life cycle of an endangered species in Western Australia, called Yakkin by the local aboriginals. While the text focusses on the environment and Yakkin's natural enemies, the boldly colored, full-sized illustrations on each facing page reinforce the text with lively, eye-catching detail. An appendix by the biology researcher, Gerald Kuchling, gives further factual information and explains the on-going efforts to protect the swamp turtle's habitat with much international support. The book has been widely prised by ecologists and wildlife conservations. German and French editions are available. (8+)
(Eve Pownall Award for Information Books Honor Book 1996)

39
Macleod, Mark (comp.)
Ready or not
Milsons Point: Mark Macleod/Random House
Australia, 1996. 308pp
ISBN 0-09-183161-X
Australia/Short story - Sexual orientation

This anthology of 20 short stories gathers excellent short pieces on the theme of gender and sexuality by the best contemporary Australian-born or resident writers for young people, nearly all original publications. The narrative styles are as polished as they are varied: first person, stream of consciousness, shifting perspectives, or in diary or letter form. Most of the protagonists are adolescents becoming aware of their sexual orientation for the first time, or young adults seeking love and understanding. Interspersed with black-and-white cartoons which humorously portray the trials and tribulations of being gay or lesbian, the book also includes a short biography and statement by each (not necessarily homosexual) author. (14+)

New Zealand

40
Crump, Barry (text)
Ball, Murray (illus.)
Mrs. Windyflax and the Pungapeople
Auckland: Hodder Moa Beckett, 1995. [34pp]
ISBN 1-86958-185-7
Fantasy - Pranks

This light-hearted, nonsensical story in rhyme relates the tale of a »funny little lady« who is plagued by a horde of invisible little green creatures, the »pungapeople«, who are constantly stealing her mailbox and playing other pranks. She turns to the local police officer, whose valiant but hapless attempts to enforce the law are recorded here in full-page illustrations which contain as much wit and slapstick as the text. The raw coastal cliffs are rendered in bold exhuberent color, giving the book an authentic New Zealand atmosphere. (4+)

41
Joseph, Vivienne
Worlds apart
Wellington: Mallinson Rendel, 1996. 119pp
ISBN 0-908783-14-0
School - Hamlet - Bully - Family problems - Suicide - Parent/Child
At the school in the new area where Cara and her parents have moved in hopes of forgetting the mysterious suicide of brother and son, the English class is studying Hamlet. While dealing intensively with the dilemmas faced both by Hamlet and by her brother, Cara herself has to deal with the bullying of a girl in her class, the easy-going attitude of her new college-dropout boyfriend, and her parent's inability to deal with their family tragedy. In this fast-moving plot the author carefully weaves these story elements into a satisfying whole, in which Cara learns about herself and how to cope with the effects of other people's behavior. (14+)

42
Lasenby, Jack
The battle of Pook Island
Dunedin: Longacre Press, 1996. 200pp
ISBN 1-877135-03-8
New Zealand/1930s - School - Rivalry - Adventure
This is the third adventure novel about the Seddon Street Gang, four boys and girls growing up during the 1930s in New Zealand. Returning to school after a summer full of adventure and personal growth, each of the children gets involved again in family life. At school they unite against their archrivals, the Milk Street Gang. Lasenby, a former teacher and today one of New Zealand's most popular writers, relies on colorful, direct dialogs to reveal the relationships between the characters and to make the situations come alive. The second book of this series, »The Waterfall«, was the winner of the 1996 Aim Junior Fiction Award. (10+)

Europe

Great Britain

43
Ardley, Bridget / Ardley, Neil
The Oxford children's A to Z of the human body
Oxford: University Press, 1996. 64pp. With illus.
ISBN 0-19-910318-6
Human body
This clearly formulated, alphabetical compendium of over 300 terms is striking for its concise definitions and the innovative manner of integrating explanatory illustrations within the page layout. The terms range from the parts and features of the body (e.g., abdomen; immune system; tears), its life processes (e.g. ageing; memory), medical treatment and apparatus (e.g., symptom; thermometer) illnesses and conditions (e.g. allergy; TB), to substances which have an effect of the body (e.g. alcohol). The illustrations range from photographs, microscopic enlargements, to stylistic color drawings. Neil Ardley, who collaborated with David Macauley on »The way things work«, once again shows how a book of this genre can be attractive, fun and informative. (9+) ☼

44
Bateson-Hill, Margaret (text)
Pelizzoli, Francesca (illus.)
Wan, Manyee (Chinese text)
Qu, Sha-Liu (paper-cut)
Lao Lao of Dragon Mountain
London: DeAgostini Ed., 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 1-899883-28-2
Old woman - Emperor - Greed - Dragon
This newly written story by a British storyteller incorporates many elements of Chinese folktales into a tale about an upright, generous and obedient old woman who loves to entertain children with her paper-cuts. Then the greedy emperor locks her up on a tower where she is to use her skills to create jewels. Finally, the Ice Dragon rescues her and turns the emperor and the guards into ice monuments. The beautifully designed book, which integrates illustration, typography and background in an unusual manner, renders the story in both English and Chinese and includes simple instructions for paper-cuts. (6+)

45
Behan, Brendan (reteller)
Lynch, P.J. (illus.)
The King of Ireland's son
London: Andersen Press, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 0-86263-693-6
Ireland/Folktale - Giant - Prince - Princess - Trickery

The Irish storytelling tradition, with its wild exaggerations and magical resolutions after long journeys and battles of cleverness, is displayed here in full glory both in word and picture. Lynch offers superb watercolor paintings in which the choice of perspective, elaborate attention to detail, and full palette of colors and hue work together to achieve stunning effects. They are the ideal complement to Behan's vivid retelling of the tale of the youngest son who, with the help of a magical horse, releases the beautiful princess being held captive by a seemingly clever, but ultimately defeatable giant. (6+)

46
Burgess, Melvin
Tiger Tiger
London: Andersen, 1996. 149pp
ISBN 0-86264-683-9
Wildlife park - Tiger - Transformation - Organized crime

In the Yorkshire hills of England a wildlife park for Siberian tigers is run with the alleged goal of increasing the population of this endangered species and returning them to their natural habitats. A young boy of the nearby town feels especially drawn to the charismatic young female tiger and, knowing this, she in turn comes to him for help after a Chinese syndicate invades the park and kills most of the tigers, whose bones are valued as a rare and expensive medicine. Changing shapes between tiger and young girl with her supernatural mental powers, she takes revenge on all members of the conspiracy in this suspenseful tale of realistic fantasy. (10+)

47
Elboz, Stephen
The Byzantium Bazaar
Oxford: University Press, 1996. 136pp
ISBN 0-19-271578-X
Grandfather - Criminality - Homeless - Animal protection - Friendship

When Bridie arrives at her beloved grandfather's home and junk-yard business for a visit, she discovers it taken over by two very weird and violent characters who will not tell her what has become of him and even keep her suitcase with all her belongings. Left to her own resources, she finds help among the street people, a loyal clan of social outcasts, and is taken in by an old woman who has closed her family department store and turned it into a refuge for stray animals. With the help of Miss Firbanks and her adult son, Bridie succeeds at last in locating her helpless, penniless grandfather and restoring order in their lives. This engrossing fantasy novel borders on our reality but creates a world of its own where, despite the presence of real and imagined evil forces, human values of compassion and loyalty prevail. (12+)

48
Evans, Christine (coll.)
The blue moon and other stories from Wales
Dyfed: Pont Books/Gomer Press, 1995. 142pp
ISBN 1-85902-228-6
Wales/Short stories - Everyday life

The tales collected here deal with events in the daily life of young people in Wales today. In some respects their experiences are universal, but at times the particular influence of their setting and culture shines through. Some of the stories are written in the first person from the perspective of an adolescent looking back at an event in earlier childhood. Some are melancholy reminiscences, while others reflect happy moments of understanding. (10+) ✧

49
Hazell, Rebecca (text/illus.)
The Barefoot book of heroes. Great men from many times and places
Bath: Barefoot, 1997. 80pp
ISBN 1-898000-38-7
Fame - Hero

The men profiled in this eclectic volume are praised for their genial achievements and their compassionate understanding of the human condition. Each of the vivid profiles is accompanied by a subchapter dealing with the historical and cultural context and a map on which the main places of their lives and times are clearly marked. The inclusion of outstanding figures outside of the European cultural tradition such as Prince Taishi Shotoku of Japan, Mansa Kankan Musa of West Africa, and Sequoyah of the Cherokee Nation is of particular significance. The texts are clearly written in a narrative which goes beyond a dry array of facts and is accompanied by appropriate, captioned watercolor illustrations. The author has already published a book on heroines with the same publisher. (10+) ✧

50
Rosen, Michael (text)
Graham, Bob (illus.)
This is our house
London: Walker Books, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 0-7445-3750-9
Friendship - Play - Selfishness - Discrimination

When a young boy decides that the cardboard box house belongs to him all alone, he forbids entry to each playmate on account of their sex, size, appearance or behavior. But the others won't stand for such nonsense and when he leaves the box to go to the toilet, they of course gleefully take over. But these would-be »squatters« do not hold a grudge long, and George is allowed to join them in the end. The simple, full-paged water-color illustrations are full of delightful detail. (4+)

☺ Special Mention

51
Smith, Michael
After the darkness
London: Scholastic, 1996. 192pp
ISBN 0-590-54260-5
France/History 1940 - Vichy Regime - Jews/Persecution

In this story-within-a-story, a modern-day French boy, Oliver, discovers the ghosts of two Jewish children from Paris who had been forced to take refuge with their parents in an unoccupied mansion in Vichy France in July 1940, just after the Vichy government agreed to turn all Jews over to the Nazi occupiers. Their mother was killed for refusing an order of the local militia and their father captured along with his underground helper. Abandoned and locked in a hideaway, the children have no chance to escape. Only Oliver's fascination with their presence in the garden of his new home gradually leads him to believe the story they tell him and find the one man who can tell them what they need to know to set their souls to rest - the old French resistance fighter who had been with their father in a concentration camp. This story combines elements of historical and magical realism to give insight into a period which forced men, women and children to choose sides, make moral decisions and take risks. The narrator weaves the different strands of this moving story together in a suspenseful manner, filling in the missing elements of the mystery step-by-step. (12+)

52
Touré, Masée
Bai Burch's countrymen
London: Janus Publishing, 1995. 128pp
ISBN 1-85756-189-9
Sierra Leone - Family - Small people - Power - Beliefs

The author of these three stories is a young adult born in Sierra Leone and now attending school in England. She draws upon her family background in the novella-length title story in which the power relationships of employers, religious leaders, healers, and politicians are observed by a young girl of great perceptivity and self-confidence. As she grows older - but like Oskar in Grass's »The Tin Drum«, not taller - she learns to use her observations and also becomes inspired by the legendary tribal chief Bai Bureh, a figure of resistence and integrity at the end of the 19th century. The author opens up the experiences and culture of an African people in a contemporary setting and her writing will be enjoyed for its vivid depictions and its detailed, well-paced plots. (12+) ✧

Ireland

53
Arrigan, Mary
The dwellers beneath
Dublin: Attic Press, 1996. 122pp
(Bright sparks; 24)
ISBN 1-85594-114-7
Kidnapping - Sect - Alternative society - Mystery - Adventure

When Miriam's father loses his business, the family must leave its upper-class home for a smaller house in a less attractive part of town. At her new public school, Miriam is befriended by children of very different social backgrounds. When one of them mysteriously disappears, Miriam and her new friends discover only by chance the tunnel into an underground world where a fanatic religious sect has been living for generations, kidnapping children from time to time to keep their society going. Their experiences in this other, »peaceful« but rigidly structured world, where they find children held in captivity, and their dramatic escape make for a thrilling read. The tightly-woven plot and character development make the novel memorable. (12+)

54
O'Louglin, Aislinn (text)
Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise (illus.)
A right royal pain. Rumpelstiltskin - the true story
Dublin: Wolfhound Press, 1996. 79pp
ISBN 0-86327-514-1
Straw - Gold - Greed - Name/Secret

Rumpelstiltskin finally tells us his own side of the story about how he helped a very spoiled and ungrateful miller's dauther to live up to her father's claims that she could spin straw to gold. One quickly discovers that there can be two sides to any story and learns to sympathize with the kind-hearted, wrongfully maligned elf. The hip, youthful first-person voice and the imaginative twists to this adaptation - which O'Louglin also connects to »Sleeping Beauty« and »Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs« - make for an all-around enjoyable read. (8+) ✪

55
Ré Ó Laighléis
Ecstasy and other stories
Dublin: Beacon Books/Poolbeg, 1996. 104pp
ISBN 1-85371-611-1
Ireland/Short stories - Ireland/City life

These hard-hitting short stories are set in contemporary urban Ireland and deal with topics ranging from drugs (as suggested by the title) to unemployment, but the moment of the first kiss and a kidnapping. The characters come quickly alive and the open-ended tales are often stimulate the reader. The earlier Irish-language edition of these stories was a Bisto Book of the Year Merit Award winner. (14+)

North America

Canada

56
Andrews, Jan
Keri
<Proper name>
Toronto: Groundwood Books/Douglas & McIntyre, 1996. 94pp
ISBN 0-88899-240-8
Newfoundland - Whale - Mother/Daughter - Brother/Sister - Change

Keri and her mother have been at odds with each other often ever since Keri's father had to sell his boat and take a job on a fishing ship. Keri finds it very difficult to accept this and other changes taking place in her village in the wake of Newfoundland's changing economic situation. When she and her brother find a whale stranded near their home she spontaneously insists they stay with it all night in hopes of saving it. When their mother

finally comes searching for them, the pent up frustrations on both sides are finally vented. The author succeeds in depicting realistically a mother-daughter conflict and an adolescent's growing awareness of her world. The story rings true with the use of idiomatic speech. (10+)
(Governor-General's Literary Awards [Children's Literature-text] Shortlist 1996)

57
Granfield, Linda (text)
Wilson, Janet (illus.)
In Flanders fields. The story of the poem by John McCrae
Toronto: Stoddart, 1996. [32pp]
(First printed in 1995 by Lester Publishing)
ISBN 0-7737-2991-7
First World War/France/Belgium - War
This very attractively designed information book documents many aspects of the First World War in France and Belgium using as a visual and textual canvas the famous anti-war poem which begins with the line »In Flanders fields the poppies blow«, written by a young Canadian doctor and poet in 1915. Wilson's beautiful, atmospheric paintings illustrate each line of the poem, while photos and black-and-white sketches round out the story of the pain and tragedy involved in the »war to end all wars.« (8+)

58
Lawson, Julie (text)
Zimmermann, Werner (illus.)
Whatever you do, don't go near that canoe!
Richmond Hill: North Winds/Scholastic Canada, 1996. 30pp
ISBN 0-590-24429-9
Curiosity - Adventure - Island - Pirate
Two adventurous children in the Canadian wilderness are warned by their friend Captain Kelsey McKee not to go near »that canoe«. What child could resist this challenge? After a long journey, they do indeed meet a horde of wild pirates on an island who invite them to a campfire meal before sending them on their way again with pockets full of gold coins. This cryptic, rhyming picture book is written in verse in the first person.The wildly colorful double-spread illustrations reflect the light-hearted approach to this imaginative journey into the unknown. (8+)
(Governor General's Literary Awards [Children's literature - Illustration] 1996 shortlist)

59
Little, Jean (text)
Wales, Johnny (illus.)
Gruntle Piggle takes off
Toronto: Viking/Penguin Books Canada, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 0-670-86340-8
Grandfather/Granddaughter - City/Land - Differences
A young city-dwelling piglet whose parents pursue academic professions in the big city has an urging to discover her roots, in particular to meet her estranged, country grandfather. Full of adventure she sets off one day for the barnyard at Swine Corners and soon discovers that rural life is not as idyllic as she had imagined. But she realizes something about her grandfather that no one else had suspected, and sets out to rectify it. On the one level an entertaining animal tale, at another level a story of accepting differences not as barriers but as mutual enrichment. The captivating pastel watercolor illustrations extend the text with many witty details. (6+)

60
McKibbon, Hugh William (text)
Cameron, Scott (illus.)
The token gift
Toronto: Annick, 1996. [30pp]
ISBN 1-55037-499-0
India/Legend - Chess - Honor
A clever and supposedly wise old man becomes wealthy from the sale of a 64-square board game of strategy he called Chaturanga. When the king summons him to court and offers a reward to the game's inventor, he uses his cleverness and mathematical knowledge to outwit the king and force him to abdicate in favor of the old man. After one day the new king realizes the emptiness of his wish for greatness, and restores the true king to the throne. In this way, both men give witness to the meaning of good and honorable behavior. Today this board game is known the world over as chess. The full-page oil-painting illustrations of each element of the narrative enable this story about human values to come alive. (6+)

61
Yee, Paul (text)
Chan, Harvey (illus.)
Ghost train
Toronto: Groundwood Books, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 0-8899-257-2
North America/Chinese - Father/Daughter - Dream - Railway - Death

A young Chinese girl, Choon-Yi, who possesses nothing but a talent to paint, follows her father to North America, where he works on laying the railway, only to learn that he was recently killed in an accident. In a dream he asks her »to paint the train that runs on the road I built.« He takes her on the ghost train and shows her the restless spirits of the many dead Chinese workers who long to return to their homes. Now her painting becomes filled with their faces in the train windows and she is ready to take them back to China.The exquisite paintings on these over-sized pages are done in sombe hues of brown which reflect the sorrowful, ghostly atmosphere of the story. The text conveys with feeling this part of the Chinese experience and the magical realism of the bond between the living and the dead. (8+) ✧

(Governor-General's Literary Awards [Children's literature - text] 1996)

USA

62
Coles, William E.
Another kind of Monday
New York: Atheneum, 1996. 234pp
ISBN 0-689-80254-4
Quest - Romance - Self-discovery - Pittsburgh/ History 1850-1996 - Racial identity

At the school library Mark borrows a copy of Dickens' »Great Expectations« and finds in it an envelope containing $300 and an invitation to participate in a quest with further rewards. Each stage involves solving elaborate riddles about a local site of historical significance where further instructions have been hidden together with increasing sums of cash. In the third stage Mark is required to select a girl to continue working with. When he chooses an intelligent classmate, daughter of a white father and black mother, their at first tension-fraught partnership gradually leads to romance. This odyssee of self-discovery, arranged by a mysterious stranger, leads them to extensive research in libraries and archives and at times very dangerous undertakings. The suspense and complications of the well-crafted plot make this novel hard to put down. (14+)

63
Freeman, Suzanne
The cuckoo's child
New York: Greenwillow, 1996. 249pp
ISBN 0-688-14290-7
Parent - Death - Cultural Identity - Self-discovery

Mia and her older half-sisters have lived for four years in Lebanon but Mia has always longed to return to the USA and lead a perfectly normal family life. When her parents' sailboat disappears in the Ionian Sea, the girls must return to Tennessee to live with their unmarried aunt. Gradually it becomes certain that her parents are dead and Mia's feelings of abandonment and all the associated emotional confusion are vented in daredevil behavior. Her one mainstay is an elderly neighbor, also orphaned as a child, whose story of the cuckoo bird ultimately gives Mia a metaphor which helps her to adjust to the changes in her life. This first-person narrative by a new author allows the reader to empathize with the spirited, self-assertive girl. (10+)

64
Han, Oki S. (adapt./illus.)
Plunkett, Stephanie Haboush (adapt.)
Kongi and Potgi. A Cinderella story from Korea
New York: Dial, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 0-8037-1572-2
Korea/Folktale - Cinderella - Stepmother - Animals

Many elements of this very popular Korean version of Cinderella are identical to the Perrault version.The motherless girl's father ignores the stepmother's ill-treatment, but kind animals of the field and woods help her to fulfill her enormous workload and enable her to attend the prince's party. Later she is identified by the Korean-style slipper and marries the prince. Aside from the very attractively painted portrayal of rural farm life in Korea, the ending of the tale reveals much of

Korea's cultural perspective: the stepmother and daughter repent of their wicked behavior and the new queen's steadfast goodness »helped her to serve her people well.« (4+) ◇

65
Langsen, Richard C. (text)
Rubel, Nicole (illus.)
When someone in the family drinks too much
New York: Dial, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 0-8037-1686-9
Alcoholism - Parent/Child
Using the familiar techniques of an easy-to-read picture book - a teddy bear family as protagonists and colorful illustrations overlaid with a few words of text - the author, a family therapist, and illustrator speak directly to children about the phenomenon of alcoholism: what alcoholism is, how to recognize it, how alcoholics deal with their situation, how alcoholism affects the rest of the family, especially children, and some positive ways of coping with an alcoholic family member. This work has all the features of an information book, but the immediacy and accessibility of a storybook. (6+)

66
Lester, Julius (adapt.)
Schindler, S.D. (illus.)
Sam and the tigers
New York: Dial, 1996. 40pp
ISBN 0-80037-3038-9
Tiger - Clothing - Trickery - Pancake
The original fantasy-like tale of Little Black Sambo, written by a Scottish woman for her children in 1899, has had the reputation of presenting Blacks as dumb and ugly. In this version two of the USA's foremost writers and illustrators for children and Black themselves, give the story a new look. Sam is a strong-willed child who likes gaudy clothing. When faced with five greedy robber-tigers, he patiently waits for his chance to outwit them, taking home his due reward - a jug of tiger butter - for a neighborhood feast of orange-and-black striped pancakes. The story retains all the original fantastic elements while the richly detailed watercolor illustrations add to the humor and fun of the whole adventure. (5+)

☺ Special Mention

67
Martin, Trude
Obee and Mungadeech
New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996. 107pp
ISBN 0-689-80644-2
Imaginary friend - Friendship - School - Parent/Child - Self-identity - Parental Separation
Kate is a highly sensitive and introspective young girl living in New York City. Aside from her girlfriend Beth, she confides her fears and problems in an invisible friend. Both her science teacher and a rival school friend encourage her to accept the challenges facing her - overtly in the form of a science project competion, but implicitly another one, the separation of her parents. In a fresh and captivating narrative the author explores a now common situation of a young girl coping with self-doubt and a parental crisis which she observes but is helpless to change. The story is full of witty real-life dialogues and inner monologs, and the author makes clever use of a fantasy-like idea involving newborns' capacity to analyze the world and to speak with each other. (12+)

68
Paterson, Katherine
Jip. His story
New York: Lodestar/Dutton, 1996. 181pp
ISBN 0-535-67543-4
USA/History 19th century - Slavery - African - American - Identity - Friendship - Quaker
Found abandoned as a small child on a country road in Vermont, Jip grows up on the town poor farm along with other social outcasts. As a healthy and intelligent young boy he bears responsibility for the handicapped and for the farmwork, receiving no recognition or even the chance for schooling. One day a stranger shows particular interest in Jip and his family origins. When at last Jip learns that he is the son of a runaway slave and her white master, who has now discovered Jips whereabouts, he receives help from Quaker neighbors to flee to Canada via the »Underground Railroad«, a secret escape network. In her usual skilful storytelling style, Paterson weaves a suspenseful tale with a cast of interesting characters against a realistic historical background. (10+) ◇

69
Prelutsky, Jack (text)
Sís, Peter (illus.)
Monday's troll
New York: Greenwillow, 1996. 40pp
ISBN 0-688-09644-1
Troll - Wizard - Giant

This team of poet and painter collaborate for the second time on a volume of thematic poetry embedded on full-paged paintings which respond to and interpret each poem's ideas and tone. Told in the first-person, the poems give humorous insight into the thoughts and behavior of trolls, wizards, witches, giants and ogres. Most of the 17 poems are composed in several stanzas with measured lines and end rhyme which simply roll of the tongue. (10+)

70
Voigt, Cynthia
Bad girls
New York: Scholastic, 1996. 277pp
ISBN 0-590-60134-2
School - Friendship - Rivalry - Pranks

The fifth-grade girls, Mikey and Margolo, find themselves next to each other, in alphabetical order, on the first day of their new school. Though they have different family backgrounds and experiences, their initially tentative friendship deepens. Each day they find ways to assert themselves against obnoxious boys and a teacher whose strict rules of order challenge their natural sense of dignity and self-identity. Voigt succeeds masterfully in portraying the thoughts and intense feelings of two high-spirited protagonists, their irreverent sense of fun and daring, and a classroom of children poised between childhood and adolescence. (10+)

German Language

Austria

71
Auer, Martin (text)
Sormann, Christine (illus.)
Was die alte Maiasaura erzählt.
Ein Bilderbuch über die Evolution
(Tales told by the old Maiasaura.
A picture book about evolution)
Mödling: St. Gabriel, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-85264-497-6
Evolution - Dinosaurs - Present - Future

The old Maiasaura tells her dinosaur children her dream of Earth - how it was when they came, what was there before them and what would come afterwards. Large-sized pictures show the evolution of the animals after the dinosaurs died out, and finally how the world was developed by human beings, those strange and naked two-legged creatures. This is a brief survey of the origins of our world for young people, as narrated by friendly dinosaurs. (5+)

72
Jambyn, Dashdandog (text)
Harranth, Wolf (German text)
Byambyn, Chintogtokh (illus.)
Mazaalai - Die Geschichte eines
mongolischen Bären
(Mazaalai - The story of a Mongolian bear)
Wien: hpt Verlagsges., 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 3-7004-1244-4
Gobi Desert - Bear - Ecology

During the drought all the animals leave the Gobi desert and look for their food and drink elsewhere. Only the little desert bear, the Mazaalai, wants to stay where he was born. All alone he wanders through the deserted countryside until he meets a person who can bring water up from deep below. The Gobi turns green again, the animals return. The vastness of the Mongolian landscape and the Mongolian's close bonds with nature are made evident in the text and imagery of this little book. (6+)

73
Frischmuth, Barbara (text)
Kallay, Dušan (illus.)
Vom Mädchen, das übers Wasser ging
(The girl who walked on water)
Wien: Dachs, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-85191-075-3
Man/Animal - Security - Utopia
A young girl has gone lost and finds shelter with the animals at the river. This utopia or true community among man and beast is portrayed here in text and image on a higher level. The discriminating use of artistic means keeps the book from lapsing into trite didactics. (5+)

74
Gepp, Gerhard (text/illus.)
Kleines Boot auf großer Reise
(Little Boat takes a long journey)
Wien: Picus, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 3-8452-087-5
Homeland - Monotony - Travel - Adventure - Homecoming
A little boat swims with the other boats, always on the same lake. Bored of this, it flies one day with a fantastic flying machine to the sea where it enjoys exciting adventures to tell all about upon returning home. As exemplary the story, so also the illustrations. Especially the main characters desire to look beyond their own pond. This will strike a chord with younger children and in the simply organized, block-style illustrations there are many details which will appeal to them. (4+)

75
Harranth, Wolf (text)
Candea, Romulus (illus.)
Das Flötenkonzert
(The flute concert)
Wien: Jungbrunnen, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 3-7026-5679-0
Flutist - Concert - Memorization - Stage fright
The flutist A.M. Winkelried is completely unnerved. He cannot find his musical score anywhere. Though he knows that he has the piece he is to play this evening completely memorized, he is about to die of stage fright. But the excitement only spurs on his talent. The audience gives him a standing ovation, and he decides that he will never play from his score again. Endorsed by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, this book will encourage younger perfectionists to have more courage, self-confidence and daring. (6+)

76
Huainigg, Franz-Joseph (text)
Ritter, Annegert (illus.)
Fred hat Zeit
(Fred takes his time)
Mödling: St. Gabriel, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 3-85264-513-1
Boredom - Time - Journalism - Stress - Illness
Fred does everything at a very slow pace. He is always the last one finished at meals. The other children at kindergarten are bored with him, although he finds his own games very entertaining. No amount of warnings will help. But the situation changes when Fred's father, a journalist, falls sick due to stress and his hectic pace of life. Now the doctor's advice is to follow Fred's pace, although of course no one will ever manage to be quite as slow as Fred. (8+)

77
Laube, Sigrid (text)
Wechdorn, Susanne (illus.)
Wenn Jakob unterm Kirschbaum sitzt
(When Jacob sits under the cherry tree)
Wien: Jungbrunnen, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-7026-5684-7
Daytime - Daydream - Nature - Shadow
A young boy experiences a summertime of nature, discovering the various aspects of the day under an old cherry tree, with animals all around him. His daydreams carry him away, he plays with them, tries to jump over his shadow and observes how it changes from morning to night. The contemplative view of a long hot summer day, with its intact world of nature and the comfort taken in it by a child, radiates from this book. (6+)

☺ Special Mention

78
Welsh, Renate
Disteltage
(Days of thistles)
Wien: Obelisk, 1996. 156pp
ISBN 3-85197-301-1
(simultaneously publ. by Nagel & Kimche. Zürich, 1996)
Mother/Daughter - Grandmother - Illness - Overburden
Sarah is overburdened with caring for her sick mother. She has to forge her mother's signature to get money for the household and a doctor's attest for missing school. Though she is helped by a fellow pupil at school, the help she gets from her grandmother at home seems instead to be a hinderance of her own efforts. With considerable sensitivity to the explosiveness of such a difficult situation, the author finds the precise narrative balance. (10+)

Germany

79
Abraham, Peter
Piepheini
(Squeaky Henry)
München: Ellermann, 1996. 157pp
ISBN 3-7707-3040-2
Second World War - Berlin/History 1945 - Evacuation - Pomerania - Escape - Death
Heinrich (Henry) is often teased by his classmates as »squeaky Henry«. When, in the winter of 1945, he makes a remark about listening to enemy radio stations, there seems to be such danger for the family that the father goes underground and Heinrich is sent away to Pomerania. He is still there when the war ends and they must flee from the Red Army across the ice of Frisches Haff on the Gulf of Danzig. Bombs are dropped on the refugees and terrible things happen. Though Heinrich survives and finds his father again, their family is destroyed; Heinrich grows up in an orphanage. Based on his own biography, the author vividly recalls the war and post-war years of fifty years ago. (10+)

80
Ahl, Sigi (text/illus.)
Papepipopu <nonsense word>
Hamburg: Carlsen, 1996. [24pp]
ISBN 3-551-51475
Speech - Word play - Toilet training
»Papa«, calls little sister, »pepe« and points with horror at her little brother, who is standing up on the swing and making wee-wee. His bottom side is also in action? Papa has nothing better to do than stare in amazement. But his amazement is all the greater when little sister runs to Mama and is suddenly able to say, »Pepe knows how to swing properly!«. The witty words and illustrations describe this elementary family situation. (5+)

81
Askenazy, Ludvik (text)
Wiesmüller, Dieter (illus.)
Das Wunderei
(The magical egg)
Hamburg: Carlsen, 1996. [24pp]
ISBN 3-551-51528-X
Imagination - Egg - Miniature world - Game - Magic
On a highway bridge Robert finds an egg, »so blue that it takes your breath away«, which contains a little miniature world that opens up when one knocks on the shell. He succeeds in getting the miniature girl, Ninette, to come out of the egg into his world, but loses her again when the magical egg finally breaks. The beholder of this picture book is swept away into a world of nighttime spaces in which anything seems possible. (6+)

82
Berner, Rotraut Susanne (text/illus.)
Das Abenteuer
(The adventure)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-407-79172-0
Cat - Dog - Fear - Play - Friendship - Adventure
A pleasurable, though entirely accidental encounter help to correct the long-standing misunderstanding between two neighbors. While at play the ball rolls from the cat house to the dog mansion and the attempt to get it back leads for the first time to an understanding between the two parties. And there is a chance for more. Together with her text, Berner's colorful pictures make for thoroughly entertaining reading. (5+)

83
Boddin, Heidrun (text/illus.)
Verflixte Fliegen!
(Those darn flies!)
München: Middelhauve, 1996. [36pp]
ISBN 3-7876-9384-X
Flies

The joys and sorrows of being a fly are portrayed here for young children in short lyrics along with charming illustrations. Printed on brown packing paper, the bold colors of the fly family members achieve their fullest expression. (4+)

☺ Special Mention

84
Dayre, Valérie (text)
Erlbruch, Wolf (illus.)
Honke, Gudrun / Graeff, Max Christian (transl.)
Die Menschenfresserin
(The lady cannibal)
Wuppertal: Hammer, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-87294-715-X
(French ed.: L' Ogresse en Pleurs. Toulouse: Éditions Milan, 1996)
Mother/Son - Cannibalism - Depth psychology - Love - Regret

As the crowning moment of her evil life, a woman plans to eat a child. Afterwards, she is shattered by her own deed, for she has eaten her own child. The »devouring mother« has surely never been depicted to such horrible extremity and with such aesthetic souvereignity before this picture book. The excellent German translation of the impressive, laconic text is both expounded upon and extended by Erlbruch's pictures, which leave wide berth for interpretation. Decorative elements such as the ever recurring, surrealistically strewn philodendra leaves or the child's sailor's suit allow an analysis, or perhaps a persiflage, of middle-class life. Just as the frontispiece of the book shows a young girl playing the German playground game »Heaven and Hell« (hopscotch), the story takes the reader down the long path of often unconscious human behavior. (14+)

85
Grote, Wilfrid (text)
Ballhaus, Verena (illus.)
Adios, Emilio. Viel Glück, Emil Lück!
(Bye, Emilio. Good luck, Emil Luck!)
München: Kerle, 1996. 81pp
ISBN 3-85303-129-3
Argentina/History 1920s/1930s - Emigration - Father - Homecoming

In the 1920s and 1930s the massive unemployment forces a brave family father to seek work overseas, in the oil fields of Argentina. From there he is able to provide his family at home in Gronau-an-der-Leine with the basic minimum needs. This fast-paced narrative revolves around his adventures and his often sly methods of getting by in a foreign land. Inventive, ironic illustrations round out this attractive little book, which will appeal to a wide age-range. (7+)

86
Heller, Eva (text)
Sowa, Michael (illus.)
Das unerwartete Geschenk vom Weihnachtsmann und von Frau Glück und Herrn Liebe
(The unexpected gift from Santa Claus, Lady Luck and Monsieur L'Amour)
Oldenburg: Lappan, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-89082-154-5
Christmas - Gift-giving - Surprise - Happiness

Good luck knows neither the time nor the day, that is the Christmas message of this cheerful story. In prosaic pictures, which give an ironic view of cosy, middle-class homelife, we witness how Santa Claus, Lady Luck and Monsieur L'Amour go to great extremes to pass along their surplus stock of dolls to little boys and girls. Then the computer notices that this present has been placed ten years too early in the sack, because of a technical error. Thus Antonia gets her doll Simonetta already now, unexpectedly und unplanned. Three cheers for the picture book computer. (7+)

87
Hensgen, Andrea
Dich habe ich in die Mitte der Welt gestellt
(I have placed you at the middle of the world)
München: Bertelsmann, 1996. 286pp
ISBN 3-570-12389-8
Rite of passage - Identity - First love - Intellectual history

The members of a graduating class who participate in a project week on the theme of »the history of European thought« experience at the same time a chance to clarify their own ideas of themselves and their relationships with one another. Although the author takes this aspect very seriously, she also weaves into the narrative a considerable wealth of information about culture and important thinkers in central Europe. Yet throughout the novel, the protagonists remain vivid and interesting figures at the core of the narrative. (14+)

88
Holub, Josef (text)
Bonifaz und der Räuber Knapp
(Boniface and the Robber Knapp)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1996. 241pp
ISBN 3-407-70696-X
Germany/History 1867 - Orphan - Adoption - Thief - Discrimination - Friendship - Village life - Emigration

The orphan Boniface is sent to live with his uncle, the village mayor, in the Wurttemberg village of Graab. Nearly killed along the way, he later learns that he had been rescued by Knapp, who is known in the village as a robber. Boniface is soon fast friends with Knapp's son Christian, but when the family is forced by the neighborhood gossips to emigrate overseas, they are separated. In a natural, sympathetic manner the author transports the reader into the world of the young protagonist. (8+)

89
Jandl, Ernst (text)
Junge, Norman (illus.)
Immer höher
(Higher and higher)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 3-407-79178-X
Austria/Poetry

This (relatively) large book with a (relatively) short text moves effortlessly from the microcosmos of the protagonist to the macrocosmos of the universe. But nothing is given an explanation, even when objects are imbued with animation. In a quite matter-of-fact manner the poet and illustrator expand to the maximum the horizons of experience using a minimum of means. Each page contains only those objects described in the line of text. Changes are shown in night-time blue, new situations in clear daylight. The continuity in the course of events shown in the sequence of illustrations corresponds perfectly to the rhythm of the text. (5+)

90
Kahlert, Elke (text)
Glienke, Amelie (illus.)
Das Kinderkarussell
(The children's merry-go-round)
Reinbek: Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag, 1997. 123pp
(rororo rotfuchs; 808)
ISBN 3-499-20808-3
Merry-go-round - Crime - Forgery - Detective story

Sophie and Fabian are concerned about their old merry-go-round because the dappled-grey horse is missing. So they scatter a little ash and decide to play detective. At last they get to the root of things, but not without taking some dangerous risks. A gang of forgers had been using the horse's body as a hiding place. With humour and subtle finesse the author shows what fun children have keeping little and big secrets - and how inventive they can be in trying to fool the adults. (8+)

91
Kishon, Ephraim (text)
Kishon, Renana (illus.)
Ein Schnuller mit dem Namen Zezi
(A pacifier named Zezi)
München: Lentz, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 3-88010-412-3
Baby - Pacifier - Conflict - Trickery

In this book for both young and old, a subversive little baby learns how to keep its family and babysitters in non-stop action by hiding its one and only beloved pacifier and throwing a tantrum until it gets it. The pictures, with lift-up flaps for all sorts of potential hiding places, will delight playful youngsters. They are done by the »former baby«, now adult daughter of of the well-known adult author Kishon. (6+)

92
Koch, Marianne (text)
Janssen, Susanne (illus.)
Die Abenteuer der kleinen Wolke
(The adventure of the little cloud)
München: Hanser, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-446-18485-6
Cloud - Flight - Adventure - Help
The little cloud makes its first long journey and finds lots to tell about the joys and dangers it has experienced. Although the pictures clearly reveal the influence of her master teacher, the alternative, more feminine style of this young illustrator give cause to follow her future development. (4+)

93
Krenzer, Rolf (text)
Mirtschin, Jutta (illus.)
Die Babuschka, Sascha und das Huhn Natascha
(The Babushka, Sasha and Natasha, the chicken)
Lahr: Kaufmann, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-7806-2375-7
Grandmother/Grandchild - Russia/Easter - Poverty - Charity/Giving
In this story about the joys of sharing and giving, Babuschka arranges for her grandchild Sascha to enjoy Easter by sharing their own Easter banquet meal with children even poorer than themselves. The festivities of a Russian Easter night are portrayed in this quiet, reflective and optimistic book. (6+)

94
Kulot-Fritsch, Daniela (text/illus.)
Nasebohren ist schön
(Nose-picking is fun)
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1996. 32pp
ISBN 3-522-43227-4
Child-rearing - Social convention - Threat - Lies
The children of the elephant, mouse and frog families love to pick their noses. That's forbidden! cry the parents. Why? the children want to know. Disease! their elders tell them. But look there - the grandparents, who have almost nothing to do with child-rearing, do not feel obliged to act as role models - and pick their noses, too. This merry and colorful picture book extolls the passionate pleasures of pursuing one's needs and of forming subversive alliances between old and young against dry conventions. (6+)

95
Lawitzky, Gerd
Kasper, König, Räuber
(Punch, King, Robber)
Berlin: Elefantenpress, 1996. 111pp
ISBN 3-88520-594-7
Clothing - Role exchange - Confusion - Duty
For the most part, Punch, King and Robber are quite satisfied with their lives, though they find their jobs distasteful at times. One day each gets so angry that he casts off his official dress - joker cap, crown and pistol. Now, without their proper owners, these three objects cause the greatest amount of confusion when they land in the wrong hands and on the wrong heads. But in the end they all come to the conclusion that things work best when done by professionals. This is a humorously told parable about real life clothed in figures familiar to smaller children. (6+)

96
Maar, Paul (text)
Bofinger, Manfred (illus.)
Der Buchstaben-Fresser
(The letter eater)
Hamburg: Oetinger, 1996. 63pp
ISBN 3-7891-0509-0
Letter - Reading - Name - Imagination - Wordplay
What makes »Tanne« turn into »Wanne«, or »Reis« turn into cold »Eis«? Naturally it is the work of the letter-eater, also known as letter-switcher. All this is fairly upsetting in the everyday life of Claudia and her parents, until they manage to trick him back into his (R)Ei(S) and carry it off to a deserted forest. Ever since then the woods have been filled with »Kuchen« (cakes) instead of »Buchen« (beech trees), which are eaten by »Elchen« (elks) instead of »Eichen« (oak trees). Only the way that objects change into words is not treated in this text. (8+)

97
Maar, Paul (text)
Kasparavičius, Kestutis (illus.)
Lisas Reise
(Lisa's journey)
Esslingen: Schreiber, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 3-215-13020-3
Reality - Conformity - Constraint - Freedom - Dream

In her sleep, Lisa passes through a nightmare of strange and even antagonistic worlds filled with balls, corners, colors and headstands, until she finally reaches the land of feathers (her own bed), where she doesn't have to be round, or cornery, colorful or stand on her head. At the abstract level, even smaller beholders of this picture book will find sufficient imagery and text to understand the concept of (involuntary) conformity in a pre-defined situation and see ways of extracting themselves from unjustified constraint. (5+)

98
Michels, Tilde (text)
Bhend, Käthi (illus.)
Kleine Hasen werden groß
(Little rabbits grow up)
Würzburg: Arena, 1996. 92pp
ISBN 3-401-07181-5
Rabbit - Hare - Family - Growing-up - Social differences

With amazement and a little displeasure, the children of the field rabbit family and the wild hare family discover certain differences between their kinfolk. They begin to have doubts about the customs and attributes of their families. Are big ears perhaps better than small ones? Isn't a cave more comfortable than a burrow in the ground? In the course of time all these questions seem to get answered themselves. And in the end the youngest generation moves on to start their own families. Accompanied and enhanced by naturalistic, richly detailed but imaginative pictrues, this book gives young readers not only a glimpse into the life of rabbits, but also guidance in finding one's way through different living conditions. (5+)

99
Mitgutsch, Ali (text/illus.)
Rudelius, Wolfgang (cover)
Zwiggel, der Zwerg
(Zwiggel, the dwarf)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1996. 112pp
ISBN 3-407-79687-0
Dwarf - Adventure - Wordplay

Zwiggel, a dwarf child only 200 or 300 years old, takes a stroll through the world of human beings, where he discovers square little »living boxes«, that sometimes have shining holes, »adventure boxes«, where people experience adventures just by watching, »moving tin boxes« or »learning boxes« for the little people. Other things such as »Gembooi« (Gameboy) or »Woogmen« (Walkmen) seem to be inexplicable. But Evi, his little human girlfriend, gives him just the answers he needs. Leisurely, like any Zwiggel, he slowly sets out to experience this new environment - leaving plenty of time for the read-along beholder to sink into the story and see familiar things from a new, but not obviously adult point of view. (6+)

100
Rudelius, Wolfgang
In einer anderen Welt
(In another world)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1996. 145pp
ISBN 3-407-79736-2
Mental illness - Outsider - Friend - Garden - Violence

Uli, a latch-key child, becomes friends with the fascinating young man, Walder, who lives in the garden colony and tells stories that just cannot be true or makes up things with which he can communicate or conspire. He telephones with a cordless telephone, supposedly with his father in Africa. But he gets on the nerves of »normal« people, and when they won't let him put up a peace sculpture at Christmas, he goes crazy. His house and garden are destroyed and he disappears from Uli's life. This books gives an impressive view of the world of an mentally instable outsider, showing the differences in the way in which an unprejudiced adolescent and the stick-in-the-mud, philistine middle-class perceive him. (10+)

101
Schlüter, Andreas
Die Rollschuhräuber
(The roller-skate thieves)
Berlin: Altberliner Verlag, 1996. 182pp
ISBN 3-357-00790-8
Courier - Roller-skates - Crime - Gang - Talisman

The courier service »Rat's teeth« zips around Berlin on roller-skates or rollerblades in order to fulfill otherwise unaffordable wishes. The misunderstandings and difficulties set in when a gang of handbag-snatchers who look very much like the courier kids appear on the scene. With tricks and tempo the »good guys« set themselves off from the »bad guys« and lead to their downfall. With its first volume, this sprightly detective series is off to a good start. (8+)

102
Siege, Nasrin
Shirin
(Proper name)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1996. 147pp
ISBN 3-407-79698-6
Germany - Foreigner - Muslim - Outsider - School - Friendship

When Shirin and her family move to Germany, she is one of the first Iranian children who has to adjust to a new life in a foreign land. She and her sisters experience all the difficulties of this situation - within the family, at school and in their free time. Her fellow pupils make her life so difficult, that she herself arranges to be enrolled in a different school. Things are further complicated by the fact that she is a Muslim, and her father very strictly religious. But finally she succeeds in feeling comfortable in her German surroundings, at the price, however, of no longer having a real homeland. This fascinating narrative is based on authentic experiences, written by an Iranian woman who has lived in Germany since her childhood and writes today in German. (8+) ✧

103
Stiemert, Elisabeth (text)
Kehr, Karoline (illus.)
Kinder, Krach und große Ohren
(Children, noise and big ears)
Hildesheim: Gerstenberg, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-8067-4175-1
Noise - Neighbors - Conflict

Family Upstairs and Mrs. Downstairs are at odds with each other because the Upstairs children make too much noise. But when the noise stops one day after so many complaints, Mrs. Downstairs falls ill with a case of »listening hypertrophy«, where her ears begin to grow boundlessly, always listening for the slightest sound from the floor above. Medical advice is now quite simply to hear noise from upstairs again. Her ears begin to shrink back to normal and things are peaceful again. Aside from this imaginative story, the book stands out for its lively, skilfully drawn and witty pictures. (6+)

104
Wiencirz, Gerlinde (text)
Röckener, Andreas (illus.)
Eine Schlacht? Die könnt ihr haben!
(A battle! You're in for it!)
München: Bertelsmann, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 3-570-12371-5
King - War - Dictatorship - Peace - Work - Friendship

The lion, a bored despot, decides to make war with his neighbors. The soldiers are called up, but since the apple harvest is in full swing, the war games will have to wait. But waiting is boring, picking apples together is more fun. So a truce is reached and the lion is left all alone. Brilliant tones emphasize the optimistic tenor of the story. (4+)

105
Wolfsgruber, Linda (text/illus.)
Wolf oder Schaf - böse oder brav?
(Wolf or sheep - evil or good)
München: Kerle, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 3-85303-118-8
Disguise - Wolf - Sheep - Good/Evil

»Take care whom you trust« is the message of this visually and textually complex picture book for older children. One must learn to look very closely, listen very closely before deciding who to get involved with (sheep in wolf's clothing or wolf in sheep's clothing), and also to discover the hidden evil and the hidden goodness in other living creatures. When read in the company of an adult, children can learn important lessons about the ways of the world. (8+)

Switzerland

106
Diebold, Ute (text/illus)
Jetzt reicht's
(That's enough)
Gossau: Neugebauer, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-85195-378-9
Eating habits - Animals - Table manners
The menu at the zoo is certainly monotonous, at least for the giraffe, the elephant and the hare. So they decide to try getting something better at the restaurant - which is easier said than done. In the end, they can only wonder what people find so great about eating out. With the help of drama-filled pictures, the unsightliness of the many little pig-like eaters make it become clear, that certain general rules of good behavior and table manners, especially in public, are necessary for everyone's sense of well-being. (4+)

107
Gerber-Hess, Maja
Mama im Knast
(Mama in jail)
Luzern: rex, 1996. 216pp
ISBN 3-7252-0644-9
Mother/Daughter - Manslaughter - Prison - Discrimination
A middle-class family falls apart when the (patriarchal) father loses his job. As the successful, sole bread-winner, the mother finds herself pressured by her superior, becomes open for blackmail, and finally kills him one day in self-defense. After an unsuccessful suicide attempt, she is sentenced to prison for manslaughter. In this first-person narrative, a teenage daugther gives thought to her own situation and that of her family. Written with a certain distance, this novel shows how an adolescent can deal with exceptionally difficult family circumstances. (12+)

☺ Special Mention

108
Jaeckel, Hans
Ibo
<Proper name>
Zürich: Unionsverlag, 1996. 168pp
ISBN 3-293-00233-1
Germany/Turkish youth - Crime - Family
As a very young child, the Turkish boy Ibrahim (Ibo) joins his father and brother in Hamburg. His mother and other brothers and sisters join them much later, but in the meantime Ibo has been expelled several times from school for fights and petty crimes. His is the world of the Turkish markets in the harbor district where he earns his own money with clever business »practices«. His tales betray, however, a longing for an intact family life and a knowable future, although he himself lives from day to day, deed to deed. Ibo's authentic narrative about the at times his asocial urban environment with unpolished and criminal but still likeable figures - both Germans and foreigners, his difficulties at home and his decision to enroll in job training, is an impressive reading both in terms of narrative style and content. (14+)

109
Manz, Hans (text)
Binder, Hannes (illus.)
Pantoffeln für den Esel
(Slippers for the donkey)
Zürich: Nagel & Kimche, 1996. 117pp
ISBN 3-312-00800-X
Animals - Adventure
One day a donkey asks his farmer for a pair of slippers, because he wants to be just as happy in the evenings as his master. He is stubborn enough to get what he wants, but realizes that he hasn't done himself any favor. Proudly he parades with the splendid, but cumbersome foot-coverings back and forth in front of all the female donkeys and is happy at last to be able to present his footwear to a vain little donkey beauty - out of love, of course. Full-paged black-and-white woodcuts and large-sized typeface make each of these 15 fairy tale or fable-like stories quite appealing. (5+)

110
Rowe, John A. (text/illus.)
Baumann, Peter (German text)
Ferkel Ferdinand
(Piglet Ferdinand)
Gossau: Neugebauer, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 3-85195-380-0
(Engl. ed: Peter Piglet. New York: North-South Books, 1996)
Pig - Shoes - Vanity - Helpfulness - Sacrifice

One glorious morning, the kind little piglet Ferdinand finds a pair of golden shoes just lying about in the forest. He tries them on, walks about and feels like a dancer. But to his great disappointment, the shoes have disappeared the next morning. One has been turned into a turtle's house and the other into a bird's nest. Ferdinand decides to let well enough alone and rejoices over his new-found ease of movement. From his snout to his little curly tail, this is likeable little pig inspite of his forgiveable weaknesses. In each large-size picture the golden shoes cast a glow on everything and everyone around them. As a visual sign of reward for Ferdinand's willing sacrifice, he is shown walking barefoot toward the golden depths of the page. (6+)

111
Slawski, Wolfgang (text/illus.)
Die Besucher-Sucher
(Waiting for visitors)
Gossau: Nord-Süd, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 3-314-00728-0
Loneliness - Railway station - Travel - Friendship

A man waits everyday at the railway station for someone coming to visit him - in vain. Even when he decides one day to wait at a different station - no luck. But then he finds others in a similar situation, and their number grows and grows. When all of these visitor-seekers begin to travel the world without meeting a single visitor, they finally decide to visit one another from now on. Thus the problem is solved to everyone's satisfaction. The humorous text and pictures will encourage children to set off looking for people like themselves when no one comes looking for them. (6+)

Romance Languages

Africa

Cameroon (French)

112
Onana, Désiré
Matike, l'enfant de la rue (Matike, the street child)
Yaoundé: Editions Akoma MBA, 1995. 24pp
no ISBN
(Distrib: Les Amis de la Joie par les Livres, Paris)
City life - Poverty - Parental violence - Street child - Job training

Plain and memorable black-and-white stencil pictures illustrate this story of an African boy who runs away from home to escape the beatings of his father and family poverty. He earns his own keep on the street for a while until he is taken into a youth correction center. There he also learns a skilled job as a carpenter and finally returns to his home. This appealing picture book comes out of a studio in Cameroon which was founded by a group of African authors and illustrators who want to design and publish attractive and high-quality books for children. (6+) ✧ ☼

Ivory Coast (French)

113
Koné Doh Fandanh, Joël
Le défilé des innocents
(The defiling of the innocents)
Abidjan: Edilis, 1996. 88pp
ISBN 2-909238-46-6
Student - AIDS - Sex instruction

This first novel of a 22-year-old African revolves around two students whose fate is determined by AIDS. While the first-person narrator learns to accept the prognosis of an early death, the other is so shattered that he commits a terrible suicide. In a flash back, the narrative depicts their earlier friendship, their conversations about their future plans, their view of the world, their attitudes toward the African and the white cultures. As fascinating as this is, the reader may be shocked by the undisguised sexual aggressivity toward girls. In order to digest these passages of the novel, which is in general well-written, the reader should be mature and self-reflective. (15+)

Romance Languages

Europe

Belgium (French)

114
Brouillard, Anne (text/illus.)
Le pays du rêve (The land of dreams)
Paris: Duculot, 1996. [44pp]
ISBN 2-203-55358-8
Dream - Reality

At first glance this picture book is quite puzzling. In the illustrations there are two clearly different worlds of experience to be seen. In one, spacious and airy double-paged landscapes and interiors predominate. The genuine reality, on the other hand, is depicted in black-and-white sequences of small pictures. The text mirrors the leap of consciousness from the real to the dream-time world. A child speaks of his dreams in which a song, a ship and a deserted house continually appear. The mystery of this dream is superimposed on the experiences of the real world, with all its familiar, everyday sounds and activities. (8+)

115
Place, François (text/illus.)
Du pays des amazones aux iles indigo
(From the land of the Amazonas to
the Indigo Islands)
Paris: Casterman/Gallimard, 1996. 144pp
ISBN 2-203-14244-8
Utopia - Island - Travel

Inspired by myths and legendary reports about sunken cultures, the author-illustrator dreamed up the utopian island of Orbæ and presents its very different regions in a three-volume atlas. The fantastic reports about its imaginary countries are told by storytellers, explorers, and chroniclers. The highly detailed, subtly shaded illustrations alternate between raw landscapes and paradisical pastures, from oriental dream-like cities to icebergs. Documentary tables in the style of old geography books help maintain the fiction of a meticulously researched reality. (11+)

116
Rascal (text)
Chatellard, Isabelle (illus.)
Olivia à Paris
(Olivia in Paris)
Paris: Pastel, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 2-211-03697-X
Paris - Chicken - Tourist

Olivia, a stout country hen, decides to visit the egg-market in Paris. With a roguish, sparkling touch the illustrator shows the beauty and temptations of the legendary metropolis from the ecstatic perspective of the country brooder. Her enthusiasm is reflected in the boisterous momentum of the picture angles and the humorous citation of the many details that form the myth of the tourist attraction Paris. The warm colors and prefe-rence for brilliant patterns underline the merry, festive atmosphere. (3+)

France

117
Amelin, Michel (text)
Frély, Gilles (illus.)
Un crime est-il facile?
(A crime is easy?)
Paris: Epigones, 1996. 90pp
ISBN 2-7366-4646-0
Twins - Detective - Crime - Jealousy - Mistrust - Reconciliation - Friendship

The victim of the crime is a doll. Tracking down the evil-doer who so brutally damaged it, the twin detectives are unexpectedly caught up in a network of jealousy and mistrust involving their own classmates. When the perpetrator is discovered, everyone involved resolves their conflict with humor, honesty and forgiveness. This lesson in reconciliation is passed along to the reader in a suspenseful and amusing narrative. (9+) ○

118
Bernard, Fred (text)
Roca, François (illus.)
La reine des fourmis a disparu
(The queen of the ants has disappeared)
Paris: Albin Michel, 1996. [48pp]
ISBN 2-226-08234-4
Tropical forest - Ants - Queen - Odyssee - New York - Reunion - Conservation

Two red ants turn into detectives and comb the tropical forest to find their abducted queen, landing finally in an airplane bound for New York, where they finally find their missing ruler in a giant museum of natural history - being investigated by a researcher. The disproportional relationship between the tiny ants and their enormous adventure turns this into an enchanting story. The super-realistic illustrations give the scenes a fantastic, magical character. In the course of their adventures, many objective details about the tropical forest and its animal life are pointed out, serving to illuminate issues of nature conservation. (8+)

119
Boujon, Claude (text/illus.)
La chaise bleu
(The blue chair)
Paris: L'École des loisirs, 1996. [36pp]
ISBN 2-211-04211-2
Desert - Hare - Dog - Chair - Play

There is no mistaking the laconic picture storytelling style used by Boujon, who died last year. A hare and a dog are taking a walk in the middle of a desert. A blue spot seen from the distance is discovered to be a chair. That is all it takes to have a romp, since the imagination does all the rest. Each tries to outdo the other in thinking up new scenes using the chair as a prop. Along comes an Arabian camel and puts an end to their fun with the categorical statement: a chair is meant to be sat in! So hare and dog move on, leaving the camel - sitting - to his boredom. (5+)

120
Comte, Herbert (text)
Le Cabinet de Curiosité
(The curio cabinet)
Paris: Circonflexe, 1995. 90pp
ISBN 2-87833-150-8
Curio - World travel

A collector opens up his curio cabinet to show what he has gathered during his world travels. One piece after the other is revealed in the photographs, while the text describes the origin, purpose and manner of acquisition with a sympathetic view toward the object and the people who made it. Many of them bear cultural significance, such as the little tablet of the Koran from Morocco, while others, such as the little fishbone wedge used for dog harnesses in Alaska, stimulate the imagination, or, like the spine of a shark from Mexico, highlight the exotic. For those who are willing, these many little objects open up the possiblity to encounter the pleasures of a multifaceted world. (8+) ✧

☺ Special Mention

121
David, François (text)
Galeron, Henri (illus.)
Une petite flamme dans la nuit
(A little flame in the night)
Paris: Bayard, 1996. 105pp
ISBN 2-227-704-63-2
Concentration camp - Terror - Survival - Storytelling - Parable - Hope - Resistance

Night after night a woman whispers parable tales of terror and despotism in the ear of a child to help it go to sleep. The illustrations leave no doubt as to where these absurd situations take place: a high barbed wire fence with watch-towers, surrounding the barren grounds and barracks of a concentration camp. Each story follows upon a short conversation between the rebellious child and the woman, who hopes that the forced sleep will help the child endure the coming day. The parables describe the brutal tyranny of a despot long ago. Each ends with the fragile hope that the terror, though long lasting, will come to an end if the memory of resistance and freedom is kept alive. When on the twelvth night the woman does not return to their common plank bed, the child's stony heart falls away and it can cry again. In the following night, a younger child takes the woman's place, and the older one takes on the role of the woman, telling the same stories again. The illustrations for the individual parables are extraordinary in capturing the timeless, metaphoric nature of the stories. They possess a literary power of expression by revealing the grotesque-comical aspect of totalitarian terror, thus underlining its absurdity. (10+)

122
Didier, Jean / Zad (text/illus.)
Zoum Chat de traîneau (Zoum, the sled-cat)
Toulouse: Milan, 1996. 38pp
ISBN 2-84113-410-5
Cat - Sled - Adventure - Lie - Storytelling
This picture book has several attractions to offer. It fulfills the need of children for spooky stories with a balanced mixture of fright and relief. And it uses the well-known storytelling perspective of Grandfather telling about days gone by. And, thirdly, it offers an aesthetic delight with full-paged, striking illustrations. The idea of making the storyteller a grandfather cat who sees no reason to stick too closely to the truth give the at once merry and spooky adventures a humorous coating. Who could imagine a cat playing the part of a sled-dog! (5+) ☆

123
Douzou, Olivier (text)
Simon, Isabelle (illus.)
Autobus numéro 33 (Autobus No. 33)
Rodez: Éditions du Rouergue, 1996. [48pp]
ISBN 2-84156-023-6
Bus - Travel - Racial equality
The metaphor of the earth as boat in which we are all sitting inspired the illustrator to write this story about a little red bus which takes a journey around the whole world. Scattered throughout the continents are bus-stops at which a pair - in each case a human and an animal - are waiting for this modern-day Noah's Ark. The photos of painted pottery figures portray the passengers, people of all races and ages in the company of an equally motley crowd of animals. The excerpts of a rudimentary world map help to give a geographical orientation. The humanistic message of this pretty little volume is quite subtle: there is no room for discrimination on this bus line. (7+) ◇

124
Gudule
L'envers du décor
(The reverse side of the scene)
Paris: Hachette Jeunesse, 1996. 192pp
ISBN 2-01-321338-7
Unemployment - Homelessness - House-squatting - Solidarity - Charity
Felix and his mother have fallen upon hard times. They take refuge in a house illegally occupied by people out of work and illegal immigrants. The reader feels drawn in by the narrator and her concern for the social disadvantaged, taking part in their motley crew until they are brutally driven apart by the house demolition. Any tendency to regard the house-squatting movement as idyllic is firmly counteracted by the illustrations. With an unsettling and at times even grotesque clarity, the pictures mirror the desolate situation of society's outsiders, testing the humanity of the reader in this confrontation with unvarnished reality. (13+)

125
Hans, Marie-Pierre (text/illus.)
Monsieur William
(Mr. William)
Paris: Grasset-Jeunesse, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 2-246-51941-1
Goldfish - House - Imitation - Family
When no one else is home, Mr. William, a goldfish, takes leave of his fishbowl. He looks like a blown-up red beach ball, so fat that only half of him fits on the horizontal double-pages. He makes use of everything he finds, shaving himself, trying on Father's necktie and cruising around in the car. This is a picture book to look at with the very youngest, for whom reading means pointing and naming the colorful, haptic objects. The background, with its apparent lumps and scraps of newspaper paper maché, ideal for little fingers to fiddle with, will appeal to the tactile senses as well. (2+)

126
Hellings, Colette (text)
Jacobs, Nadine (illus.)
Un bébé tombé du ciel
(A baby who fell from heaven)
Paris: Archimède, 1996. 30pp
ISBN 2-211038921
Giraffe

A baby giraffe falls indeed from heaven, since at birth it is dropped 2 meters to earth. In just a few minutes it can stand up and begin to suckle at its mother's udder and to discover the world. This picture book shows the experiences in the first few days of life, how it is accepted into the herd and attacked by a lioness. The impressive expanse of the African savannah is ever-present in the double-spread illustrations of this generously sized landscape-format picture book. A brief appendix supplies further information about giraffes, which are fairly underrepresented in information books. (5+)

127
Jardin, Alexandre (text)
Derobe, Alain (photos)
de Broca, Alexandre (special effects)
Cybermaman ou le voyage extraordinaire au centre d'un ordinateur
(Cybermaman or the extraordinary journey to the center of a computer)
Paris: Gallimard, 1996. 64pp
ISBN 2-07-059412-2
Computer - Virtual reality - Adventure

A writer, a photographer and a specialist for optical effects have collaborated here, using technical equipment to create a new style of photonovel (livre cinématographique). The plot involves a virtual journey into the inner workings of a personal computer. Three brothers and sisters head off into cyberspace with their head-mounted displays after their computer crashs in order to find their favorite program which contains pictures, mementos and voice recordings of their dead mother. The oversized glossy photographs (of this oversized book) bring to view the surrealist nature of virtual space, including anti-viruses, which resembles a very real and opulent hall of horrors. (7+)

128
Judes, Marie-Odile (text)
Bourre, Martine (illus.)
Maxime Loupiot
(Maxim Wolff)
Paris: Père Castor Flammarion, 1996. 32pp
ISBN 2-08-160327-6
Wolf - Father/Son - Career choice

Father Wolf is in despair over his young son who takes after no one else in the family. He prefers gardening to hunting! All efforts to re-educate him to the ways of a wolf fail miserably. But the joke is on Father Wolf. This animal family leads a very human-like life in the vivacious illustrations. The artist had great fun in hinting at the wolfs' nature of the inhabitants in the details of the furniture. In spite of the fundamental antagonism of the father-son relationship, there is much love and tenderness to be seen. This allows the young reader, undisturbed by any sense of fear, to take delight in the mishaps of this clumsy father. (6+)

129
Kerisel, Françoise
Nona des sables
(Nona of the desert)
Paris: Albin Michel, 1996. 40pp
ISBN 2-226-08236-0
Algeria - Colonization - War - Family - Memory

A young girl searches with a passion for her own roots in the family genealogy. She presses her great-grandmother to recall her past in Africa, but the old woman buries herself in painful silence, recalling how her forbears had moved to Algeria as colonizers in the 19th century, only to return to France during the Algerian war. Nona has lost her roots and yearns to return to the mimosa and the desert. But the shame over all that took place in the course of colonization and war seals her mouth. The interaction of this detective work and resistance to memory is reflected in scraps of conversation. Reproductions of historical postcards from Algeria are stitched between the leaves of this large-sized album. (10+)

☺ Special Mention

130
Korkos, Alain (text)
Truong, Marcelino (illus)
En attendant Eliane (Waiting for Elaine)
Paris: Syros, 1996. 75pp
(Les uns les autres)
ISBN 2-841-46-321-4
Jews - Algeria/Pogrom 1934 - Emigration - Paris/Deportation 1942

The publisher has established a series of highly literary novels which treats the events of the most recent past and present involving breaches of human rights and violence in multicultural conflicts. The novels' protagonists are fictional, but their historical contexts are authentic. This particular novel deals with an Arabic Jew from Algeria, the last of his family, who lived through the waves of anti-semitic discrimination both in his homeland and in exile in Paris. Alone one rainy evening he recalls in a moving soliloquy the events that led to his parents' and sister's deaths in Algeria and Germany. The author weaves an epic tale on several levels and helps the young reader to keep on with the story even when the narration may engender only revolt, shock and pain. (14+) ✧

131
Lévy, Didier (text)
Galibour, Coralie (illus.)
Peut-on faire confiance à un crocodile affamé?
(Can you trust a hungry crocodile?)
Paris: Albin Michel Jeunesse, 1996. [52pp]
ISBN 2-266-07170-9
Toad - Crocodile - Journey - Trust - Intelligence - Friendship

The answer to the question posed in the title would seem to be: no! Especially if one is a good-natured toad travelling in a balloon with a crocodile whose friendship ends where his hunger begins. But the happy end of the journey of this very odd couple proves that with a little intelligence and sympathy an enjoyable coexistence is possible, despite the extreme differences. The lively colors and surprisingly amusing viewpoints in the various sized pictures convey the humor and wisdom of this story in a high-spirited manner. (5+)

132
Merleau-Ponty, Claire (text)
Ballantine, Kevin (photos)
Sally et le voleur du rêve
(Sally and the thief of dreams)
Paris: Hatier, 1996. 60pp
ISBN 2-7438-0055-0
Australia - Aborigines - Painting - Tabu - Cultural gap - Adventure

The story of the aborigines and their nomad culture are caught up in the history of Sally and her family. After a taboo regarding the unique paintings of the tribes is broken, the resulting intrigue is used to elaborate on the rituals, the legends of life's origins. The fragile existence of this culture is vividly depicted, located on the breaking point between tradition and modernity, threatened with perversion by tourism and greedy profit. Scattered throughout the narrative are authentic ethnographic photos which also have the charm of intimate family memories. The documentary appendix provides supplemental details and summarizes the Aborigines' problems. (8+) ✧

133
Mets, Alan (text/illus.)
Je suis parti!
(I'm on my way!)
Paris: L'École des Loisirs, 1996. 36pp
ISBN 2-211-041-07-8
Cat - Night - Travel - Adventure

These travel adventures of a black cat produce a superb bedtime story. All the episodes take place at night in full-page, landscape format illustrations. Only one sentence is sufficient to explain each situation. Generous use of space and bold colors change the picture story from agitated to smooth lines, depending on the rise or decline in the drama of the scene. The lively eyes of the story's protagonists, who meet unexpectedly, have a language of their own. Peaceful cosiness prevails whenever you encounter a sleeper. (4+)

134
Morgenstern, Susie
Lettres d'amour de 0 à 10 (Love letters from 0 to 10)
Paris: L'École des loisirs, 1996. 210pp
ISBN 2-211-03693-7
Motherless child - Loneliness - Friendship - Joy of life

Ernest's mother died at his birth and his father left him to grow up with his grandmother, who lives almost completely immersed in memories of her past. As result, Ernest's life is sad and monotonous. But this changes overnight when Victoire, the new girl in his class who has an unlimited capacity for joy as well as 13 brothers, »adopts« him and awakens his lust for life. There is none too little comedy, but the story also gives room to fine psychological insights. The transformation which takes place in the lives of Ernest and his grandmother follows the well-proven maxim: One must first enjoy life, before preparing to die. (10+)
(Prix Totem Roman 1996)

135
Morvan, Françoise (text)
Lapointe, Claude (illus.)
La gavotte du mille-pattes
(The gavotte of the centipede)
Arles: Actes Sud, 1996. 62pp
Animals - Nonsense poetry

Children who enjoy the sounds of words and wordplay will be well-rewarded with this droll parade of animals. Inspired by the nonsense poems which describe a colorful bestiary in the absurdest situations, the illustrator has let his imagination run wild, trumping the text with even more nonsensical pictures. With souvereignity his full-paged illustrations dominate the narrow, upright format of this handy and prettily designed little book. (5+)

136
Nozière, Jean-Paul
Une sixième en accordéon
(The sixth-grade accordeon class)
Paris: Rageot-Éditeur, 1996. 92pp
ISBN 2-7002-2364-0
Gypsies - Differentness - Integration - Squatters

Feeling like good samaritans, the children of a sixth-grade class prepare to welcome Zoltan, a boy whose gypsy family has become squatters in the town's run-down city hall. In minutely recorded scenes, Zoltan's perceptive benchmate describes the ultimate failure of their attempts at integration. Even the teachers, who admire his talent on the accordeon and are portrayed as being unprejudiced, are unable to deal with his differentness, expressed in apathy and reserve. In the end, protests from the citizenry lead to a solution of »he gypsy problem« when the police enforce their eviction. (9+) ✧

137
Place, François (text)
Besse, Christophe (illus.)
Le camion fantôme
(The ghostwagon)
Paris: Hachette Jeunesse, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 2-01-223276-0
Old man - Retirement home - Mouse - Friendship - Helpfulness

When Monsieur Verchou, the vegetable seller, retires and moves into a retirement home, the four little mice who, like little elves, had always secretly loaded up his cart for the market, are sad. With cunning tricks, abetted by their friends, they manage to restore the run-down wagon and remove their protégé from the home. Large pictures in landscape format, drawn in vibrant colors and contours, reveal in abundant, realistic details the stages of this fantastical tale. (5+) ○

138
Prigent, Andrée (text/illus.)
Pouloute, l'hippopotame
(Pouloute, the hippopotamus)
Paris: Les Éditions Didier, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 2-278-30013-X
Hippopotamus - Island - Sea - Colors - Painting

On a very tiny round island in the deep blue sea there is a tall chimney that looks like a cake made with an upside pail in a sandbox. A blue hippopotamus comes along every day with a little wagon full of painting tools and paints fish or starfish on its wall. Rain and moonlight turn them into lively animals that splash about in the water. Changing perspectives and picture segments lend the story its charm and surprise effects. Nothing can spoil this miniature, carefree world of play. The only question left unanswered is what color the fish will be painted tomorrow. (3+)

139
Schneegans, Nicole
Une image de Lou
(A picture of Lou)
Paris: Gallimard, 1996. 330pp
Albert-Lasard, Louise (1885-1969) - Biography - Painting

The highly unusual life of the headstrong artist, Louise Albert-Lasard, who is usually remembered only for her friendship with Rilke, is depicted in this biography. Driven by her artistic vocation and an iron will, she overcame many obstacles which arose from her middle-class Jewish background and a handicap in walking. Eccentric and independent, her chosen life-style led from Munich, Paris, and Berlin, where she stood in close contact with the avant-garde of the art world. Spanning two world wars and travels around the world, her life took place in a lively epoch of intellectual and world history which will be of great interest to adolescent readers. (16+)

140
Sebbar, Leïla
La jeune fille au balcon
(The young girl on the balcony)
Paris: Seuil, 1996. 148pp
ISBN 2 02 024800-X
Algeria/France - Family - Integration - Islam - Fundamentalism - Women's role

This ensemble of six tales gives a multifaceted perspective of the long-suffering and difficult relationship between Algeria and France. The fates of several persons are chosen to show the old and new wounds which stem from the colonial wars and years of immigration, from the current conflicts of identity and problems of integration, from the collision between modern times and religious tradition. The author, daughter of Algerian-French parents, gives a penetrating view of the current civil war in Algeria. Hers is the view of the protagonists and thus in immediate contact with the suffering victims. (13+) ✧

141
Serres, Alain (text)
Mellinette, Martine (illus.)
Il y a le monde
(There is the world)
Le Chambon-sur-Lignon: Cheyne éditeur, 1996. [80pp]
Poetry/French - Travel - Observation - Life experience - Humanity

This bibliophile edition contains a collection of travel poetry written over many years. In only a few sentences the sensually recorded experiences are crystallized into an image, impressions into thoughts. Serres's travels took him from Mexico to Egypt. Brief, red-lettered lyrical notes, cross paths with graphic pen-drawings in orange and black, setting accents and awakening associations of leaves, birds, tracks and silhouettes. The fresh, very personal words reveal the author's power of perception and experience of life, for which young readers will be receptive. (12+)

Italy

142
Argilli, Marcello (text)
Cimatoribus, Alessandra (illus.)
Alla signorina Elle con tanto affetto
(To Miss »L« with love)
Firenze: Fatatrac, 1996. 63pp
(I nuovi ottagoni; 12) (Dire fare giocare)
ISBN 88-86228-74-0
Language - Alphabet - Wordplay

This book includes eight fantasy tales based on language and alphabet. The main characters are spelling, pronunciation, syntactical and grammatical mistakes, which experience adventures within various puns. Together they form a lively story reminiscent of Gianni Rodari's »Il libro degli errori«. While ignoring the school standards of proper speech and writing, lingustic knowledge is subtly conveyed, letting children realize that it is possible to play and have fun with words. The book's aesthetically pleasing design presents the puns with extraordinary charm. The bright and expressive illustrations, some using lettering and collage techniques, employ strong contrasts in line and color. (8+)

143
Bellot, Gina (text)
Pasini, Marilena (illus.)
La torta storta. Rime & filastrocche
(The crooked cake. Nursery rhymes and verses)
Roma: Nuove Edizioni Romane, 1996. 56pp
(Nuova biblioteca dei ragazzi; 15: Poesia)
ISBN 88-85990-35-5
Poetry/Italian - Children's rhymes

This collection of 41 short nursery rhymes includes a full range of creativity, emotions, thought, feeling, nonsense and limerick. The book makes pleasant and light-hearted reading sustained by amusement and poetry, smile and memory. The alternating color and black-and-white illustrations scan the rhyming couplet's rhythm, suggesting new graphic inventions. (6+)

144
Bindi Mondaini, Donatella (text)
Mariniello, Cecco (illus.)
Un coniglio nel cappello
(A rabbit in the hat)
Trieste: Edizioni EL, 1996. 87pp
(Le letture; 105)
ISBN 88-7068-997-2
Appearance - Social expectations - Only child - Friendship

Twelve-year-old Silvia is too tall and too slim, has red hair and a freckled nose, and what's more she is an only child. But Silvia has many friends, including one with an enviable family of many children where she spends a lot of time. One day Silvia meets a friendly old magician and from that moment on her life is filled with adventures, unexpected events and new acquaintances. The tale brings out children's difficulty of accepting their physical differences and shows a way to overcome problems of communication, especially with adults. (5+)

☺ Special Mention

145
Conte, Tonino (text)
Luzzati, Emanuele (illus.)
Genova, una città in 20 storie
(Genoa, a city in 20 tales)
Roma: Laterza, 1996. 111pp
ISBN 88-420-5099-7
Genoa/History

The author invites the reader on a voyage of discovery through the city of Genoa, past and present. He tells about its maritime tradition (Genoa was one of four Italian maritime republics), its legendary heroes, the architecture of its noble palaces and cultural festivals. He takes the reader on an enchanting walk through the ancient atmosphere of its streets, in search of the city's soul, which reveals itself in the intimate relationship with the sea. Blue prevails over all other colors in expressing the pervasive water of the sea that shapes the city's identity. In the illustrations Luzzati lavishes his enchanting chromatism and mastery of scene-settings to give a constituent lightness to the cityscape. His endless imagination lets him combine every possible kind of graphic technique. (12+)

146
Lazzarato, Francesca (adapt.)
Galloni, Adelchi (illus.)
L'elefante di pietra. Fiabe e favole della tradizione indiana
(The stone elephant. Tales and legends from India)
Milano: Mondadori, 1996. 79pp
(Fiabe Junior; 11)
ISBN 88-04-41545-2
India/Tales - India/Legends

The author continues her work of acquainting children with folktales from foreign cultures, choosing for this collection some of the most important traditional tales and legends of India. As usual, the anthology is supplemented by a documentary appendix consisting of concise and easily understood information and maps of the Indian subcontinent's history and geography, and in this way illustrating India's complicated religious and linguistic diversity, traditions, customs, and art styles for a better understanding of folktales. The text is complemented by watercolor illustrations which succeed in rendering the enchanting atmosphere of the Orient. (9+) ✧

147
Lazzarato Francesca / Ziliotto, Donatella (adapt.)
Carrer, Chiara (illus.)
Manuale del cacciatore di fantasmi
(Handbook for ghost-hunters)
Firenze: Salani, 1996. 115pp
ISBN 88-7782-499-9
Ghost - Horror - Short stories

The best way of overcoming one's fear of ghosts is to hunt them, and with this »handbook« the authors supply information on how to become a »perfect ghost hunter«. The book includes short tales, legends, traditions, tricks and games for parties, all related to horror. Fear in all its forms (place, sound, color) is faced, showing that you can have fun with it. The black-and-white pen-drawings capture important moments of suspense and drama. (10+)

148
Luciani, Domenica (text)
Luciani, Roberto (illus.)
Cinema segreto (Filming secrets)
Firenze: Giunti, 1996. 190pp
(Giunti Ragazzi Universale; 19)
ISBN 88-09-20867-6
Video camera - Film - Everyday life - Observation - Friendship

Sara and Marina are friends who share a common passion for films, both seeing and making them. With Sara's father's video camera they decide to make a movie about their families' everyday life. Unknown to everyone, the two girls film, among other things, Sara's sister running away from home, her boyfriend in love with an older woman or a party of Sara's parents. The girls spy on grown-ups and reveal their secret and hypocritical behaviors, collecting the evidence in a new form of audio-video-electronic diary. For each event there is a congenial reference to characters and motifs from famous recent films (such as »Beauty and the Beast« or »Jurassic Park«). The author's appealing use of language, imitating the idiom spoken by today's teenagers, achieves highly witty effects. (11+)

149
Mignone, Sebastiano Ruiz (text)
Frasca, Simone (illus.)
Guidone Mangiaterra e gli sporcaccioni
(Guidone the Earth-eater and the filthy slobs)
Casale Monferrato: Piemme, 1996. 128pp
(Il battello a vapore, Serie azzurra; 22)
ISBN 88-384-3522-7
Italy/Folktale - Fairy tale - Curse - Odor - Filth - Adventure - Love - Courage - Justice

Lovely Rita is supposed to marry Gardenio III Profumo, the prince of the Kingdom of Profumino. But then, out of spite, a filthy Slob (Sporcaccione) succeeds in making her stomach rumble with »embarrassing noises«. In search of a good doctor, the much underestimated little Guidone sets off on an adventurous journey full of unexpected encounters, dramatic moments and Sporcaccioni's evil traps. The tale belongs to the fantasy genre, with a prince, an enchanted beauty, a strange witch and a wicked wizard who resemble the characters of classical fairy tales. The author brings together with proportion and gaiety figures from the folklore of Italy's different regions in a felicitous combination of prose and verse. (7+)
(Premio Andersen 1996 for age group 6 to 9)

150
Nanetti, Angela (text)
D'Altan, Paolo (illus.)
Mistero sull'isola
(Mystery on the island)
Trieste: Einaudi Ragazzi, 1996. 133pp
(Narrativa; 54)
ISBN 88-7926-216-5
Island - Loneliness - Family conflict - Abduction - Growing up

Dario leads a very lonely life on an island which comes alive only during the summer months. But his hope for a dangerous adventure is fulfilled when he becomes suspicious of a boat's illegal cargo and the strange signals coming from a mysterious villa. When he starts to investigate, Dario gets into trouble and his father's vineyards are set on fire, forcing him to face up to the reality of organized crime. This is a story of kidnapping but also of initiation into adulthood, the time to face one's parents and forgive their failures. The author's narrative style skilfully conveys the island's atmosphere of »omertà« (conspiracy of silence) and fear which is also well portrayed by the illustrator's quivering line-drawings. (11+)

151
Pratesi, Fulco (text)
Maugeri, Stefano (illus.)
Dalle caverne ai grattacieli. Gli italiani e l'ambiente (From caves to skyscrapers. Italians and the environment)
Roma: Laterza, 1996. 158pp
(Laterza ragazzi)
ISBN 88-420-5047-4
Environmental destruction/History - Environmental protection
Human attacks on flora and fauna began already in the Paleolithic Age and have continued over the centuries, from an ever increasing deforestation for farming and settlements, right up to the present-day life-endangering level of pollution. Giving an interesting historical overview, this work also shows how to lead a more natural and respectful lifestyle. Even if we cannot turn back the course of time and disassemble our high-tech world, the author maintains that it is possible to halt the future destruction of nature. The drawings by Maugeri that complement the text have a touch of irony that encourages understanding and reflection. (12+)

152
Quarzo, Guido (text)
Costa, Nicoletta (illus.)
Marmellata di basilico (Basil jam)
Trieste: Edizioni EL, 1996. 49pp
(Le letture; 101)
ISBN 88-7068-915-8
Liguria - Village life - Tradition - School holidays - Grandmother - Environmental awareness
Giulia spends her summer holidays with her grandmother in a fishing village with cottages encircled by thick green foliage laying below hills that drop to the sea dotted with many islets. In her imagination she sees also pirates and treasures to hunt. This is a short, witty and well-crafted tale of daydreams and wishes, which mixes realistic description with fantastic visions. It also features the conspiratorial tie between grandparents and grandchildren. Pencil drawings with joyful and captivating simplicity accompany the text. (6+)

153
Quarzo, Guido (text)
Mariniello, Cecco (illus.)
Ranocchi a merenda
(Frogs for snacks)
Casale Monferrato: Piemme, 1996. 49pp
(Il battello a vapore. Serie bianca; 15)
ISBN 88-384-3415-8
Frog prince <motif> - Transformation - Adventure - Love - Friendship
Once upon a time there was a lonely fairy who turned every frog she met into a prince - wrongly believing that they were all enchanted princes - in the hope of finding the prince of her dreams. But the poor frogs complained bitterly because, though they had the appearance of human beings, they still ate gnats and were unable to speak. At last one clever frog invited her to turn herself into a frog and join him in the pond. She did and they lived happily ever after. The amusing illustrations successfully harmonize with the author's singular, fluent style. (6+) ✿

154
Scuderi, Lucia (text/illus.)
Hoplà
(Oops!)
Firenze: Fatatrac, 1996. [12pp]
(Dalla parte degli animali)
ISBN 88-86228-70-8
Chicken - Egg - Curiosity - Crocodile
A chicken encounters a gigantic egg and tries to open it by force. Using its sharp beak as a tool, it gets the shock of its life when a grinning crocodile suddenly peeps out of the shell. This is the essence of the simple story which is told in only a few pictures and summarized on the last page in three sentences. The expressiveness of the chalk-drawn illustrations of this small-sized board book are most impressive. Lucia Scuderi reduces the story to its minimal elements. There is nothing more to see than a white chicken, an orange egg and a deep blue background. With no more than the perfectly captured postures and expressions of the chicken, the youngest reader will readily understand the plot. (3+)

Romance Languages

Portugal

☺ Special Mention

155
La Fontaine, Jean de (text)
Modesto, António (illus.)
Sabler, António (trans.)
Fábulas (Fables)
Porto: Edinter, 1995. [88pp]
ISBN 972-43-0264-4
LaFontaine, Jean de - Fables

This collection of 20 fables from Jean de La Fontaine includes such well-known favorites as »The Lion and the Mouse« and the »Hare and the Tortoise.« For each fable there is a full-paged (landscape format) color illustration by António Modesto, which portrays in general only the main characters. They are the focus of the artist, free against a colored background, with additional details only sporadically hinted at. The occasional landscape illustrations stand out with their organic, flowing and expressive forms. There is a conspicuous contrast between the predominant pastel tones in many pictures and the luminous shades of blue and green in others. Often the artist portrays the protagonists as if using a zoom lens, bringing them in so close that only a segment can be seen. Among the wide range of perspectives, one sees the chattering raven in the tree, while the reed is seen looking up at the mighty oak. The illustrations of the beautiful, meticulously designed book, which is bound in carmine red linen, bear a resemblance to the pictures of the Italian artist Lorenzo Mattotti. (8+)

156
Mota, António (text)
Christ, Bayard (illus.)
A casa das bengalas
(The house of walking sticks)
Porto: Edinter, 1995. 147pp
(Edinter Jovem; 14)
ISBN 972-43-0254-7
Old age - Generational conflict - Retirement home - City/Land

A grandfather who has lived his entire life in the country moves in with his family in the big city, but doesn't get along with them - nor they with him. He returns to his village and ultimately moves into a nearby retirement home. The decision is accompanied with tears, feelings of guilt and a portion of resignation, which everyone involved learns to live with. From the point of view of the grandchild, related with laconic, dry humor, António Mota gives us sure fire, realistic descriptions that do not avoid the unpleasant parts of growing old. This excellent tale treats old age with great respect and loving kindness, without drifting off into cheap show of emotion. (12+)

Spain

157
Alcántara, Ricardo (text)
Gusti (illus.)
Quién quiere a los viejos?
(Who likes old people anyway?)
Zaragoza: Vives, 1996. 105pp
(Ala delta; 200; Serie verde)
ISBN 84-263-3263-3
Old man - Old woman - Love - Respect - Dignity

Violeta loves Evaristo and Evaristo loves Violeta. This would be nothing special except that they are not youngsters anymore. When Evaristo is finally ready to confess his love to Violeta, her niece Josefina goes to all extremes to prevent Violeta from learning that Evaristo wants to marry her. Until the happy end finally arrives, the unsuspecting Violeta is just a pawn in the hands of Josefina, who strives above all to protect her inheritance. Although this entertaining and sometimes even suspenseful and touching story tends at times to be a little too black-and-white, it convincingly conveys the idea that falling in love is something quite natural and can happen to anyone at any time in life. (9+)

158
Davi [i.e. David Zaday Caballero] (text/illus.)
Historias de soles
(Stories of suns)
Barcelona: Destino, 1996. 36pp
ISBN 84-233-2670-5
Sun

In this story the sun has many faces. In short episodes and events we encounter such strange species as the spaghetti sun or the pirate sun and learn about its everyday routines, the differences between the sun that rises over the mountains and the sun that rises over the ocean. With humor, poetic charm and witty, absurd wordplay the text takes aim at various stereotypes and platitudes - which may not always be readily understood by the very young readers. The text finds a congenial match in the line drawings which are touched in warm colors and seem just dashed off. This still quite young author-illustrator (born 1974) won the Apel·les Mestres Prize for Illustration with this work. (5+)

159
Fraile, Ruth (text)
Alcover, José Luis (illus.)
Hamburguesa de mamut.
Historia de la alimentación humana
(Mammoth hamburgers. The history of human nutrition)
Madrid: Ediciones de la Torre, 1996. 110pp
(Colección Alba y Mayo; Serie Ciencia; 2)
ISBN 84-7960-079-9
Nutrition/History

This information book provides a short, entertaining outline of the history of human nutrition. It takes into consideration everything from the menus of our Stone Age ancestors to our present-day eating habits. Along with the historical developments there is also information about habits determined by climate or culture and practical tips for a balanced diet. Humorous color illustrations round out this informative book. (10+) ✧

160
López Narváez, Concha / Salmerón, Carmelo (text)
Salmerón López, Rafael (illus.)
El viaje de Viento Pequeño
(Little Wind's journey)
León: Everest, 1996. 71pp
(Montaña encantada)
ISBN 84-241-3269-6
Wind - Growing up - Personality development - Self-realization

What will I grow up to be? thinks Little Wind. In order to answer this important question about his future, Little Wind travels around the world, meeting with others like himself who already have very different occupations, such as the hard-working Mill Wind or the destructive Violent Wind. Little Wind is at a loss, because none of those jobs interest him. But finally he finds the right profession as Park Wind that lets kites fly and helps birds to fly. In a simple style this story makes clear that every individual has his or her own abilities; every activity is valuable and most important of all is that it is satisfying. (6+) ☼

☺ Special Mention

161
Madrid, Juan
Los cañones de Durango
(The canons of Durango)
Madrid: Alfaguara, 1996. 168pp
(Serie roja)
ISBN 84-204-4450-2
Mexico/Revolution/History 1915 - Father/Son - Quest - War - Civil war

This novel looks back upon the adventure of an about 18-year-old Spanish youth, Salvador, during the confusion of the Mexican revolution. After his mother dies, he travels to that country, already torn by Civil War, to find his father who is fighting on the side of Pancho Villa, the revolutionary. After surviving several death-threating situation, he finds his father, but can only speak to him for a short time before his father is killed in the battle of the city of Torreón. Salvador then returns to Spain. The novel is absolutely gripping and skilfully interweaves the adventures of a fictitious hero in the process of growing up with historical events. The real protagonist of the book is war itself. As a representative of other (civil) wars, it is clearly portrayed as merciless cruelty that stops for nothing and no one. War is like a game of chance in which survival is only an accident, and life worth nothing. People are shot without hesitation, hung up or cruelly mistreated. The war-profiteers feather their own nests, reporters try to get »good« pictures. All this is depicted very realistically, direct and without any filters, from the not yet warped perspective of the newcomer, Salvador. The novel does not moralize and yet it is deeply moral, since the images speak for themselves, making any commentary superfluous. (14+)

162
Morábito, Fabio (text)
Seoane, Marina (illus.)
Cuando las panteras no eran negras
(When the panthers were not yet black)
Madrid: Siruela, 1996. 98pp
(Las tres edades; 45)
ISBN 84-7844-304-5
Panther - Evolution - Transformation - Group/Individual - Freedom - Independence
This story about the supposed transformation of the panther from an animal of the savannah to a cat of prey of the jungle is in essence a parable of the antagonistic relationship between the strict rules governing a group and the self-determining, independent loner. The author poses the thesis that independence and the desire to overcome boundaries are superior to a desire for security and the fearful clinging to everything familiar. The precise and intense descriptions of nature and sometimes surprising applications of human parameters to the animal kingdom make fascinating reading. Yet the novel provokes protest in as much as by making animals think as humans it suggests that the law of the jungle, Darwin's principle of the survival of the fittest, is also a determinant for human life. (13+)

163
Moure Trenor, Gonzalo
Lili, Libertad (Lili, Freedom)
Madrid: SM, 1996. 109pp
(El barco de vapor / Serie roja; 92)
ISBN 84-348-5066-4
Outsider - Loneliness - Courage - Self-confidence - Personality development
Lili is still new in town and feels uncomfortable, alone and unnoticed. And it is not easy to get along with her mother, who has gotten heavily involved in her profession since the divorce from Lili's father. When Lili is the only one to appear in the classroom without a costume on the day before Mardi Gras, she is suddenly the center of attention - and is all the more so when she is the only one to appear in costume on the following day. The teachers accuse her of being defiant and insubordinate, but for Lili it is the way she takes to strengthen her self-confidence and define her own personality. The story describes very exactly and sensitively the feelings of children who have to deal with their surroundings and their role as an outsider. (11+)
(Premio El Barco de Vapor 1995)

164
Piérola, Mabel (text/illus.)
Historia de la piedra y la montaña
(The story of the stone and the mountain)
Barcelona: Edebé, 1996. [36pp]
(Tren azul; 26)
ISBN 84-236-4096-5
Ignorance - Hate - Jealousy - Intimacy - Friendship - Love
Since time immemorial stone and mountain have lived along side one another in a vast, barren landscape. The involuntary neighbors are united in their mutual distaste and a jealousy based on the other's differentness. It is finally the wind which must blow for hundreds of years in order to bring the two together before they discover with amazement that they are made of the same material. Mabel Piérola has set highly individualistic illustrations to her parabel about ignorance and prejudice held by two basically identical beings. The forms seem to recede into blurs, only hinted at in the earth-tone pictures. Some objects are given only an abstract representation, as for example time, which is represented by little grey rectangles. (6+)

165
Rosell, Joel Franz (text)
Sesé, Daniel (illus.)
Las aventuras de Rosa de los Vientos y Perico el de los Palotes. Novela en ocho cuentos y medio
(The adventures of Rosa of the Winds and Perico with the Sticks. A novel in eight and a half stories)
Barcelona: Arca, 1996. 115pp
(Tren de cuerda; 21)
ISBN 84-478-0382-1
Kite - Fantasy journey - Foreign world - Social criticism

The protagonists of this fairytale-like fantasy take leave of their home country, a tiny kingdom »as big as a fly-speck« with their self-made kite. In the course of their travels they encounter foreign societies, bizarre rulers and puffed-up scholars. In the end they return to their own country, which they had once saved from the expansionst efforts of their king. This highly imaginative story by the Cuban author, Rosell, follows the tradition of the »voyage imaginaire« and provides much food for thought. As in »Gulliver's travels« the countries visited are satirical reflections of the protagonists' own world. By looking in from the outside, it is possible to criticize the authorities and the deficiencies of human society. (9+)

Spain (Catalan)

166
Duran, Teresa (text)
Max (illus.)
Què hi ha per a sopar? (What's for supper?)
Barcelona: Publ. de l'Abadia de Montserrat, 1996. 24pp
(Popof i Kocatasca; 1)
ISBN 84-7826-719-0
Winter - Soup - Rooster - Hunting

On account of the biting frost, the queen commands the royal cook, Popov, to cook a hearty soup. But all of the chickens which might be eligible for this meal are warned by the suspicious rooster, Kocatasca, and flee the castle in a panic. When the enraged Popov sets off to hunt down Kocatasca instead, he quite accidentally defeats a dangerous dragon. As a result, various dragon dishes can be served and the poultry is saved. This humorous story, the first in a new series, is accompanied by comic-like pictures which give excellent expression to the pace and grotesqueness of the text. (8+)

167
Grimm, Jacob / Grimm, Wilhelm (text)
Carrasco, Xavier (adapt.)
Infante, Francesc (illus.)
El nan belluguet
(Rumpelstiltskin)
Barcelona: La Galera, 1996. [28pp]
(laGalera popular; 27)
ISBN 84-246-1457-7
German/Fairy tale - Devil - Pledge - Name - Secret

This new volume in the series »la Galera popular« is a further example of the excellent quality of this prize-winning collection of folk and fairy tales from around the world. The text, illustrations, vignettes, layout, typography and design make this adaption of »Rumpelstilzchen« a reading pleasure. Francesc Infante, 1996 winner of Spain's Premio Nacional, has created the illustrations in his characteristic style. Brownish tones predominate, figures and backgrounds are abstract and stylized, the shapes are often noticeably geometric, and through the distortion of porportion and perspec-tives the portrayals are especially expressive. (6+)

Spain (Galician)

168
Docampo, Xabier P. (text)
Jaraba, Fran (illus.)
Cando petan na porta pola noite
(Knocks on the door at night)
Vigo: Ed. Xerais de Galicia, 1994. 91pp (Merlin)
ISBN 84-7507-804-4
(Spanish ed.: Madrid: Anaya, 1996)
Fear - Horror

This collection of four spooky stories do not work their effect with bloodthirstiness or extreme phantasy, but rather by creating an atmosphere of uneasiness. In each one the main protagonists gets tangled up in a situation which he doesn't understand and cannot escape: a man who encounters his doppelganger or another man who is given notice of his departure from this life in the form of an obituary notice. Xabier Docampo weaves the traditional literary elements of his native Galicia into his idiosyncratic stories. He was awarded the Spanish national literary prize for this work. (9+)

Switzerland (French)

☺ Special Mention

169
Bille, S. Corinna / Chappaz, Maurice
L'attente des images (Images in waiting)
Genève: La Joie de Lire, 1996. 76pp. With illus.
ISBN 2-88258-073-8
Middle East - Islam - Miniatures - Observation
The favorite book of Corinna Bille (1912-1979) in her father's library contained miniature paintings of the islamic world of the Middle East. The fascination of this lyrical, mysterious, stylistic world in miniature remained with the author her whole life long. A collection of reflections on these pictures has now been made accessible in a bibliophile edition by her husband, the writer Maurice Chappaz. He has also added three texts of his own and a very personal afterword. In the descrip-tions there is a union of microscopic observation, that perceives even the most unlikely features, and of sensitive intuition, that is capable of uncovering the melancholy that is present in these pictures. Both adults and youth will be tempted by this manner of observation to enjoy this leisurely encounter with the princesses, princes and wisemen in the gardens of oriental poetry. (13+)

170
Louis, Catherine
Le Livre
(The book)
Genève: La Joie de Lire, 1996. [24pp]
(Ciboulette et Léon)
ISBN 2-88258-097-8
Bear - Play - Book - Wordless picture book
This is an example of a series of four-inch square books made especially for little hands. Each contains a story without words in a sequence with all the charm and magic of an animated film. The two protagonists, a child and a bear, impishly show all the things one can do with a book besides reading it and how to perfect the art of playing with illusions. (3+)

Latin America

Argentina (Spanish)

171
Birmajer, Marcelo (text)
Forcadell, María Gabriela (illus.)
Fábulas salvajes
(Wild fables)
Buenos Aires: Ed. Sudamericana, 1996. 79pp
(Sudamericana joven)
ISBN 950-07-1180-x
Fables - Animals
Marcelo Birmajer follows in the tradition of Aesop's and LaFontaine's animal fables, but breaks with it in as much as he very consciously avoids ending his short, laconic texts with the usual, ready-to-use moral of the story. Perhaps this is the very reason that these fables encourage the readers to ask such elementary questions as: What is good and what is evil? Is there such a thing as a moral? And who gives us the right to judge the behavior of others? Would we turn into a-moral, wild beasts if there were no moral principles? With their often surprising turns of plot and unexpected endings, these fables invite discussion and contradiction because they depart from the accustomed trains of thought. (12+)

172
Montes, Graciela (text)
Rojas, Oscar (illus.)
Aventuras y desaventuras de Casiperro del Hambre
(Adventures and misadventures of Poordog the Starved)
Buenos Aires: Colihue, 1995. 140pp
(Colección Los Libros de Boris)
ISBN 950-581-275-2
City life - Dog - Outsider - Poverty
The dog Oreja struggles through life as a true underdog, doing service among other things as a circus attraction or as a model for toys. At long last he finds someone - like himself also a homeless streetwalker - who endows him with a sense of worth and nobility in the form of a melodious name which resembles that of Spanish aristocrats, Casiperro Gil del Hambre, Caballero de la Oreja. As the title of the book suggests, this masterfully told story borrows from the picaresque novel.

With the autobiographical, demasking perspective of an outsider and an episodic narrative structure, it casts light on the ways of the world - in this case, in a modern-day metropolis. (10+)

Brazil (Portuguese)

173
Chamlian, Regina (text)
Alexandrino, Helena (illus.)
A cuca vem pegar
(The Cucu will get you)
São Paulo: Ática, 1996. 40pp
(Contos de espantar meninos)
ISBN 85-08-05874-8
Brazil/Folktale - Witch - Cannibalism - Night-time - Kidnapping

In the series »Contos de espantar meninos« (Tales to scare children), Regina Chamlin retells fantastic folktales and stories found in the Brazilian tradition, accompanied by the prize-winning artist Helena Alexandrino. This volume relates the story of Julinho, a young boy, who is kidnapped by the witch, Cuca. She steals children from their beds at night and takes them to her castle, where she will eventually make a meal of them. Fortunately, he and others are saved when the witch eats much too much other food and explodes from flatulence. The full-sized color illustrations and black-and-white line drawings depict the magical character of the witch's castle and the bizarreness of this spooky but funny tale. (8+)

174
Goldin, Alberto (text)
Ohtake, Tomie (illus.)
Gota d'agua
(Waterdrop)
São Paulo: Berlendis & Vertecchia, 1995. [44pp]
(Arte para Criança)
no ISBN
Ohtake, Tomie - Painting - Arts

In this ambitious series of art books for children each volume brings together one artist and one author, both from Brazil. The author creates literary pieces for each of the artist's works being presented in order to make their approaches to art more accessible. These are less information books than creative encounters, invitations to get involved with visual art. In this book Alberto Goldin tells the lyrical tale of the »life« and travels of a waterdrop based on the abstract pictures of the painter Tomie Ohtake. (10+)

175
Mello, Roger (text/illus.)
Bumba meu boi bumbá <Brazilian folklore dance>
Rio de Janeiro: Agir, 1996. [24pp]
ISBN 85-220-0452-8
Brazil/Folklore - Bull/Slaughter - Punishment/Rescue

Bumba meu boi is an amusing drama-filled dance in the traditional Brazilian folklore. In essence it deals with Pai Francisco, who cuts out the tongue of a bull to satisfy the cravings of his pregnant wife. He is - or should be - meted out a cruel punishment, but is saved when the animal is revived. Roger Mello re-tells the tale here in verse form on the basis of tales in Brazil's oral tradition. His illustrations make use of the ornamental patterns of the Indian folklore in conjunction with elements of modern art: geometric stilization, cubist disproportion and compositions resembling collage. Those who know Mello's work will be once again fascinated to see that he does not confine himself to any one style, but is always trying out new techniques. (10+)

Chile (Spanish)

176
Morel, Alicia (text)
Gerber, Thomas (illus.)
La era del sueño (The age of dreams)
Santiago de Chile: Dolmen Ed., 1995. 109pp
ISBN 956-201-242-3
Fairy tales - Legends - Fantasy worlds

This information book introduces the world of fairies, trolls, dwarfs and giants. In various chapters the figures of legends, mythical tales and folktales, as well as literary fairy tales or the works of Shakespeare are presented. Furthermore, the reader becomes acquainted with legendary and magical places such as the famous islands such as Avalon, castles such as Camelot or distant worlds such as El Dorado. This book gives a glimpse of the nearly inmeasurable diversity of the topic; by moving across cultures and epoches and approaching the subject in thematic groups, it shows interesting links and parallels between creatures and places of different origins. (13+)

Columbia (Spanish)

177
Reyes, Yolanda (text)
Rabanal, Daniel (illus.)
El terror de sexto »B« y otras historias del colegio
(The terror of class 6B and other school stories)
Bogotá: Santillana, 1995. 96pp
ISBN 958-24-0282-2
School/Short story

In a skillful, psychologically insightful manner Reyes tells seven stories about everyday life at school each with a different main protagonist. They are school children that can be found anywhere. The reader will recognize them and identify with their experiences such as falling in love or dreading to face the next day of school. The stories are witty and humorous, at times subversive, and in each case showing an irreverent attitude toward school as an institution. The author does not try to pretend to be one of the kids by using a supposedly youthful slang, nor does she point a moralizing finger. (10+)

Mexico (Spanish)

178
Posadas, Carmen (text)
Martinez, Enrique (illus.)
Liliana bruja urbana (Liliana, the urban witch)
México, D.F.: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1996 (1st ed. 1995). 47pp
(A la orilla del viento; 63: Para los que están aprendiendo a leer)
ISBN 968-16-4680-0
Witch - Tom cat - Modern life - Tradition - City life - Country life

Although Liliana, an urban witch, appreciates the comforts of modern life, she is simply sick and tired of the hustle and bustle of her surroundings. So she decides to move to the country, taking along her spoiled tom cat, Gómez, who finds the idea awful. Life in the country turns out to be idyllic but quite uncomfortable because the convenient instant magic potion cubes soon run out and Liliana has to begin brewing everything in the old fashioned manner again. In the end the two city creatures return to their old haunts in the city. This tale casts an original light on the differences in life styles between city and country; the fluent, humorous narrative is abundantly spiked with witty ideas. (8+)

Venezuela (Spanish)

☺ Special Mention

179
Cotte, Carlos (illus.)
Chumba la cachumba <nonsense song>
Caracas: Ekaré, 1995. 28pp
(Colección Clave de sol; Canciones tradicionales para cantar y contar)
ISBN 980-257-114-8
Venezuela/Folk song - Cemetery - Skeleton

Thirteen verses of a traditional Venezuelan nonsense song give structure to this amusing and very originally designed picture book. The catchy rhythm of the monotonous melody encourage everyone to sing along, to dance and clap along. The rhythm is also evident in the dynamic of the double-sided illustrations, which are a mixed technique of computer graphic and hand-painted pictures. The song gives answer to the question as to how the dead keep from being bored to death. They let their imagination run wild, they put on plays, dance and sing. These pale, boney figures dance their funny-scary roundabouts against the background of the cemetery with its stylized, interlocking crosses and gravestones in varying shades of grey under a petroleum green sky, facing the eye of the beholder as if on a stage or in front of a camera. Between the grotesque contortions, grimaces and funny props the adult reader will discover sophisticated citations from literature, art and popular culture such as the Mona Lisa or the Infanta from Velázquez's »Las Meninas«. The most irreverent reference is surely the parody of Da Vinci's »The Last Supper« in which the skeletons are found devouring tasty deserts while in the background a stained-glass window portrays the saints of our modern consumer society: sport heros and Mickey Mouse. (3+)

North America

Canada (French)

☺ Special Mention

180
Desrosiers, Sylvie
Le long silence
(The long silence)
Montréal: La courte échelle, 1996. 146pp
ISBN 2-89021-256
Suicide - Bereavement - Friendship - Puberty
Alice is dead. The beautiful, talented and popular young girl committed suicide. Matthew stands at her coffin, angry and confused, just one hour before cremation. He calls to mind all the things he did together with Alice: in kindergarten they were playmates and then inseparable friends at school, daring and full of life. For him, a shy young boy, their friendship had turned, unawares, into love. But Alice had pulled back. Her friend only comes to realize what dangers and sensitivity hovered behind her self-assured facade, after she took that final step. Through his grief, Matthew is certain at last, that Alice will remain a part of his life. This hour of leave-taking becomes for him a rite of initiation. He knows now, that to love does not mean to possess. The psychological insight of the author into her protagonists state of mind give the novel its credibility. Especially convincing from a literary perspective are the monologues which shift between the past and the present. The narrative voice reflects the hero's manner of thought. By being honest with himself he gains the reader's empathy. (13+)
(Prix Brive-Montréal 12/17, 1996)

181
Lamontagne, Michel
L'arbre noir
(The black tree)
Montréal: Médiaspaul, 1996. 163pp
ISBN 2-89420-329-2
Planet/Lizard - Immigrants - Assimilation - Cultural conflict - Adventure - Science Fiction
This first novel is set in extraterrestial fields and uses all the tricks of science fiction with humor and intelligence. Twelve-year-old Jean has emigrated with his parents to the lizard planet of Tiäne, where he is now a guest and forced to adapt to the different life-style and disgusting eating habits of the »natives.« Jean's commentaries on these very funny collisions of two different cultures give young readers, indirectly, some insights into problems of integration and cultural conflicts. (11+)

182
Noël, Michel
Pien (Proper name)
Waterloo: Ed. Michel Quintin, 1996. 195pp
ISBN 2-89435-084-8
Northern Canada/1950s - Childhood memories
These are well-written memories of a childhood in the northern region of Canada which read like a historical novel. How long past the 1950s seem today, when a youth grows up in the northern region of Canada where the Indians still live as nomads in the forests and the Whites almost like colonialists. Such a life has its hard but fascinating side, but the modern-day technological advances are unstoppable and bring radical changes with them. The individual protagonists are well-drawn character portraits and still untouched nature is experienced as a wonderful mystery. (12+)

Romance Languages

183
Tibo, Gilles
Noémie, le secret de Madame Lubago
(Noémie, Madame Lubago's secret)
Boucherville: Québec/Amérique Jeunesse, 1996. 164pp
ISBN 2-89037-698-2
Child/Old Woman - Friendship - Tenderness - Play - Learning - Wordly wisdom

Young Noémie, lively and full of antics, is absolutely convinced that her neighbor, the kindhearted Madame Lumbago, has a hidden treasure in her apartment. Noémie tries out every possible trick, but her ultimate finding of the treasure is only secondary to the storyline. More important is the tender friendship between the two of them, which unfolds in so many ways - in rollicking nonsense at play, gazing at the wonders of the world together or being with each other without need for words when Monsieur Lumbago dies suddenly. (8+)
(Prix du Gouverneur Général catégorie littérature de jeunesse [texte], 1996)

Scandinavian Languages

Denmark

184
Bredsdorff, Bodil
Safran <Proper name>
København: Høst & Søn, 1996. 99pp
ISBN 87-14-19422-8
Thief - Escape - Adventure

Safran gathers herbs with her mute father in the mountains and dreams of sharing an idyllic house in the city with her family. After joining up with a group of caravan travellers in order to reach the city of her dreams, it is attacked by highway thieves. She is able to escape and find her own way with the help of a young robber who is on the run. But it is a long way back home. The author weaves together adventure, a love story and a coming-of-age tale into a gripping story. (10+) ☼

☺ Special Mention

185
Clausen, Jacob
Som et lille himmerige
(Like a little piece of heaven)
København: Forum, 1996. 130pp
ISBN 87-553-2496-9
Escape - Farmer - Friendship

After twelve-year-old Jim defends himself with a knife against three stronger boys, he must flee for fear of being followed. He goes to an old solitary farmer who readily lets him help with the work and gives Jim the sense of being needed. When Alfred falls ill and is taken away in an ambulance, Jim has to find his own way. In a plain, sober but for that reason quite remarkable tone, the author develops this moving comradship that is based on mutual help and creates a little idyll outside of the threat-filled world. (12+) ☼

186
Karrebæk, Dorte (text/illus.)
Pigen der var go' til mange ting
(The girl who could do so many things)
København: Forum, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 87-553-2389-8
Parent/Child - Conflict - Personality development
This is a story of a girl who has to do everything for herself because her parents are completely occupied with themselves and their arguments. She proposes that they hold a masked ball and her parents actually turn into a cat and dog, corresponding to their behavior. She soon grows up and goes her own way - »sooner or later all children leave home, she left sooner.« The illustrations are fascinating in their mixture of grotesque exaggeration and charming portrayal of the heroine. The events take place in recognizable settings which are reduced to simple, expressive caricatures. The artist uses bold colors but has limited herself to only a few tones. Dorte Karrebæk is an artist well worth discovering. (10+)

187
Lundbye, Vagn (text)
Edeltoft, Anne Mette (illus.)
Karolines dyrejeg (Karoline's Me-animal)
København: Thorup, 1996. [34pp]
ISBN 87-899-4355-4
Zoo - Animals - Protection
While visiting the zoo, a little girl learns that every person has an animal that is supposed to protect him or her. After considering a number of animals, the warthog is the one which appears to her in a dream. Both the author and illustrator make their debut in the picture book world. They succeed in depicting the relationships between man and animal in an original manner while sparking the imagination with realistic, sometimes somewhat uncanny, but not mawkish illustrations. (6+)

188
Petersen, Palle
Najas sommer. En historie fra Grønland
(Naja's summer. A story from Greenland)
Risskov: Klematis, 1995. 32pp
ISBN 87-7721-637-7
Greenland - Childhood - Everyday life
Greenland is a part of the world we should be interested in getting to know. But there are few books about life there. This photography book gives an interesting glimpse at the everyday life of a child in Greenland. (8+) ✧

189
Saxild, Jørgen
Og det var Løkken! (And that was Lokken!)
Frederiksberg: Branner og Korch, 1996. 201pp
ISBN 87-411-5791-5
School holiday - First romance
The first-person narrator enjoys a school holiday without parents at the seaside with three friends. Emotional turbulences are inevitable when, how could it be otherwise, a girl by the name of Linnea, enters his scope of view. Like several other Danish writers, Saxild is very skilled in depicting the inner moods of adolenscents, whose hopes are as intense as their doubts. (14+)

Norway

190
Austrem, Liv Marie (text)
Düzakin, Akin (illus.)
Tvillingbror (The twin brother)
Oslo: Det Norske Samlaget, 1995. [28pp]
ISBN 82-521-4522-1
Siblings - Competitive behavior - Love
A lively girl has a provokingly well-behaved brother who she cannot bear. They get to know each other better after a ski accident. Their relationship is illustrated by Düzakin, who is of Turkish ancestry, with fairly cool precision. Many of his naturalistic details seem to be collages, but are for the most part drawings. The child figures resemble dolls, but have a wide range of facial expressions. The artist has many surprises up his sleeve. (6+)

191
Ekman, Fam
Kaffebønneslekten
(The coffee bean family line)
Oslo: Cappelen, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 82-02-15835-4
Coffee - Imaginary world
This story is as surrealistic as the illustrations. It tells how some people have descended from apes.

while others - who love coffee very much - are obviously descendents of a coffee bean. Even though the pictures resemble free-style graphics, they are indeed perfectly matched with the text and form the most fascinating part of this book. The artist has mixed together very different techniques - scratchboard, drawing, collages of self-made patterned papers, prints from paper and lino-cut. (10+)

192
[En og tjue] 21 hundreår (21 Centuries)
Finn Graff <Initials>
Oslo: Aschehoug, 1996. 350pp
ISBN 82-03-24119-0
Culture - Civilization/History 1 AD - 2100 AD
Twenty-one well-known and less well-known Norwegian writers have written a story fitting to each century - thoughtful, diverse and in every respect remarkable literary contributions for the coming millenium. (14+) ◇

193
Gaarder, Jostein (text)
Kjelsen, Reidar (illus.)
Hallo? Er det noen her?
(Hello, is anyone there?)
Oslo: Gyldendal Norsk, 1996. 140pp
ISBN 82-525-3145-8
Child/Baby - Sibling - Human life
Before Joakim gets a new brother he dreams of this new earth creature as coming from another star and explains to the newcomer all about life on the planet Earth. Gaarder turns this idea into a fantastic tale, telling it mainly in dialog form.
It is outdone by the even more fantastic, grotesque illustrations whose monsters are more funny than frightening. (8+)

194
Hansen, Thore (text/illus.)
Vår verden, Victoria (Our world, Victoria)
Oslo: Gyldendal Norsk, 1995. 37pp
ISBN 82-05-23199-0
Imagination - Dream travel
In this brief story about a strange uncle who abducts his niece into the realm of his fantasy, the author demonstrates how creatively he can create fantasy worlds in pictures - in black-and-white drawings that have no need for colors. (8+)

195
Loe, Erlend (text)
Hiorthøy, Kim (illus.)
Kurt blir grusom
(Kurt becomes cruel)
Oslo: Cappelen, 1995. 103pp
ISBN 82-02-157791-9
Money - Meglomania
Truck driver Kurt is considered to a friendly man by everyone, including himself. One day he miraculously gets an entire truck full of money and he completely flips out. He wants to become a government minister and spends incredible sums of money on an election campaign that in the end only brings him one vote - his own. As a result he goes wild, and must pay for the damage he does with a demolition truck with the rest of his money. The moral of the story is: mammon corrupts. Not this, but rather the pithy style of depiction, full of dry humor, and illustrated with very original bizarre caricatures, make the book quite remarkable. (10+)

196
Loe, Erlend (text)
Hiorthøy, Kim (illus.)
Den store røde hunden
(The big red dog)
Oslo: Cappelen, 1996. [38pp]
ISBN 82-02-15834-6
Family conflict - Self-assertion
Putting Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel and Jonas together in one story has rarely been done up to now. During a car trip with her grandparents, a little girl runs off into the woods to take a pee. In a solitary cottage she meets an old man who gives her shelter. The next day she is eaten up by a great red dog, frees herself and tames him with a megaphone. Then she does the same to her long-lost grandparents and brother William. Just as crazy as the story itself are also the illustrations - a wild and humorous mixture of caricature, hobby painting and Tachist spots on every single page. (8+)

197
Natvig, Lars (text)
Dybvig, Per (illus.)
Johan uten frukt
(Fearless Johann)
Oslo: Bonnier Carlsen, 1996. [30pp]
ISBN 82-424-1070-4
Boy/Girl - Friendship
This story of a boy who is afraid of nothing - neither spiders nor girls - is in essence quite simple. But the bizarre, sometimes grotesquely exaggerated pictures turn it into an aesthetic adventure. (6+)

198
Nyquist, Arild (text)
Elling, Lars (illus.)
Knapphuset
(The button house)
Oslo: Aschehoug, 1995. 81pp
ISBN 82-03-24107-7
Meaning of life
Following in the best Skandinavian tradition, this short tale describes the slightly painful questions of a dreamy young boy who has very different parents as he asks about the meaning of life and about hope for the future. The value of the text is matched by the meticulous printing and the uniquely monumental collages of the artist Elling. (12+)

199
Sæther, Wera
Maisbarnebarna
(The grandchildren of maize)
Oslo: J.W. Cappelen, 1996. 54pp
ISBN 82-02-15802-8
Guatemala - Maya - Corn
In this documentary report about the rural life of Maya children, the author presents the fate of the Maya peoples since the age of Columbus and also describes their traditional customs and myths. The photographs are not merely dry sources of ethnographic information, but convey a lively, atmospheric impression of the lives of these village children. (10+) ✧

200
Sortland, Bjørn (text)
Elling, Lars (illus.)
Forteljinga om jakta på forteljinga
(The story of the hunt for stories)
Oslo: Det Norske Samlaget, 1995. [44pp]
ISBN 82-521-4538-8
Writer - Reader
The enormous success of these picturebook makers with their art book for children, »Red, blue and a bit of yellow«, has encouraged them to take a shot at writers. Dedicated to »all the patient and helpful librarians of the world«, this book brings the youthful hero Henrik into contact with a series of famous writers as he searches for the library to get a new book for his uncle. In the end, Salman Rushdie gives him a blue-covered book and remarks that Henrik himself is the hero of the story he has experienced. The author skilfully fills the tale with the same mystiem that real literature uses to captivate its readers. (10+) ✧

Sweden

201
Anderson, Lena (text/illus.)
Tick-tack
Stockholm: Eriksson & Lindgren, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 91-87804-91-3
Daily routine - Bedtime
Pictures which include short verses depict the day of an uncle who [illegible] taking care of his nephews. In the course of the story he works through the numbers one to twelve. But the whole thing is narrated with such humor and the animal protagonists portrayed with such expressiveness that the numbers seem ultimately just a welcome opportunity to invent a tale. (4+)

202
Bredow, Katarina von
Knappt lovlig (Scarcely permitted)
Stockholm: Norstedts förlag, 1996. 224pp
ISBN 91-1-963032-8
First love - Friendship
Fifteen-year-old Hanna, who lives alone with her single-parenting mother, searches out human contact in most unusual ways. Her girlfriend is an

outsider and her first love is a 30-year-old man. In neither situation is she disappointed. The author succeeds in depicting the mental state of a teenage girl as universally human. Her books do not deserve to be shoved into the category of girl literature, since boys would also find them valuable. (14+)

203
Danielsson, Bernt
Liv och död
(Life and death)
Stockholm: Norstedts förlag, 1996. 197pp
ISBN 91-1-960182-4
First love - Detective story
As in his previous works, Danielsson succeeds in making this story about holidays at the seashore an elegant mixture of love affairs, phantom criminals and strange personalities to produce a highly original narrative. (14+)

204
Ericsson, Eric (text)
Alvner, Christina (illus.)
Karlssons farmor får besök
(Karlssons grandmother has a visitor)
Stockholm: BonnierCarlsen, 1996. 36pp
ISBN 91-638-0646-0
Loneliness - Woman - Monster - Friendship
One day Mrs. Carlsson, who lives alone in the country, receives a case of bananas and in it, to her surprise, is an exotic monster. It is so gluttonous and egoistic that her life is turned upside down and she finally drops it off at the zoo. But then they each have such a longing for the other, that the monster returns and helps the old woman cope with her loneliness. It is not so much the story itself but its rendering in caricature illustrations of a traditional style that make this book remarkable. The still relatively unknown artist is quite good at depicting facial expressions and takes this opportunity to satirize a typical bourgeois Swedish home. (6+)

205
Gravitation. Berättelser om att bli stor
(Gravity. Tales of growing up)
Stockholm: Alfabeta, 1995. 160pp
ISBN 91-7712-4170
Growing up/Anthology
Seventeen renown Swedish authors, including Peter Pohl and Mats Wahl, write about growing up, about the suspenseful moment between childhood and the adult world. They draw either from their own experiences or depict fictitious fates - but in any case quite enthralling. (14+) ✧

206
Hörling, Anna (text/illus.)
Tussas kalas
(Tussa's birthday invitation)
Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 1996. 29pp
ISBN 91-29-63819-4
Birthday party
This presumably ordinary topic is treated here with such unusually funny pictures that not only the joys but also the sorrows (of the others) at such an event are fully visible. (4+)

207
Lindström, Eva
Lurix <Proper name>
Stockholm: Alfabeta, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 91-7712-492-8
Animal/Man - Friendship
A lonely woman and a lonely, helpless fantasy animal can become friends. They remain loyal, even when others try to separate them. That is the message of the touching story, presented in colorfully well-balanced, naive illustrations. (6+)

208
Marko, Susanne (text)
Hyman-Vallien, Ulrica (illus.)
Rappatack. Svartsjukans sånger
(Rappatack. The songs of jealousy)
Stockholm: Natur och Kultur, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 91-27-05767-4
First-born - Jealousy
Extremely expressive illustrations make this story of a little girl's jealousy of her soon to arrive sibling an exciting aesthetic experience. (6+)

209
Nilsson, Ulf (text)
Hald, Fibben / Enqvist, Marianne /
Höglund, Anna (illus.)
Mästaren och de fyra skrivarna.
En berättelse om Jesu liv och död
(The master and the four writers.
A story of Jesus' life and death)
Stockholm: Natur och Kultur, 1995. 245pp
ISBN 91-27-03977-3
New Testament/Interpretation

This especially remarkable book makes its appearance at a time when the decline of Biblical knowledge in the Swedish society and especially among its youth is already widespread. A renown author has taken on the task of citing the key passages of the four gospels, making their interpretations easy to follow and putting them into the context of their times. Without any missionary zeal, he conveys the truths contained in the gospels that have universal relevance in a powerful manner. Three highly regarded illustrators and a satisfying printing design help this edition to rise well above similar attempts. (12+)

210
Olsson, Ragnar (text)
Torudd, Cecilia (illus.)
Svansboken
(The book of tails)
Stockholm: Alfabeta, 1995. [26pp]
ISBN 91-7712-411-1
Tails

Tails from all around the world are collected here. The caricurist Torudd, who is well-known for his impudent style, demonstrates what they are good for. That all the tails of this world, as different as they may appear, are in truth the same, makes this picture book a perfect model of international understanding. (6+)

211
Pohl, Peter
När alla ljuger
(When everyone is lying)
Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 1995. 190pp
ISBN 91-29-63042-8
Father/Daughter - Business criminality

By now one of Swedens most well-known youth book authors, Pohl succeeds again and again in depicting very realistically the shocking experience and the resulting inner development of his protagonists. In this case it is Lotta, a girl brought up in a sheltered family, whose world crashes down around her when her beloved father, a powerful businessman, dies a mysterious death. (14+)

212
Stalfelt, Pernilla (text/illus.)
Hårboken
(The book of hair)
Stockholm: Eriksson & Lindgren, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 91-87804-84-0
Hair

Different forms of hair and the advantages and disadvantages of hair are presented here in a very funny manner. Pernilla Stalfelt's illustrations are intentionally primitive caricatures which underline the comedy of the individual scenarios. (8+)

213
Stark, Ulf (text)
Enqvist, Marianne (illus.)
Guldhjärtat
(The golden heart)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 1996. 86pp
ISBN 91-638-3348-4
First love

Short and easy-to-read, but very exact in choice of expression - a technique Stark is master of - this is a love story about a piano-playing boy and a girl who loses her golden heart-charm in the water. He returns it to her, only to claim her real heart. (10+)

☺ Special Mention

214
Thor, Annika
En ö i havet
(An island in the sea)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 1996. 196pp
ISBN 91-638-3306-9
Sweden - Immigration - Jew - Xenophobia

Certainly books about the crimes of the German Nazis are destined to find a wide readership, not only on account of their political content, but unfortunately also because they hold out promise of a particular suspense. That is all the more reason to recommend this book. It portrays the fate of two Jewish girls from Vienna who are sent to foster parents in Sweden. Hence the theme is not persecution or escape in Germany, but rather how children are at the mercy of others in a foreign country. Of course, they find friendly, helpful people, but their integration is not easy. Remarkable is the manner in which the author also includes in her fascinating narrative the aggressivity shown to strangers - whether they are Jews or not - and thus contributing to a coming-to-terms with a part of Swedish history which has long been tabu. (12+)

215
Torudd, Cecilia
Vi måste bada!
(We have to take a bath!)
Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 1995. [26pp]
ISBN 91-29-63093-2
Toddler - Brother - Play

A little boy decides to help his even smaller brother because his mother wants to sleep in one morning. In the end the mother needs to spend much more time putting things back in order, than if she had gotten up and done everything herself. This book by the well-known caricaturist is an example of the outstanding Swedish books for small children, which are so witty that adults can take pleasure in them, too. (4+)

216
Wahl, Mats
Emma och Daniel. Mötet
(Emma and Daniel. The meeting)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 1996. 154pp
ISBN 91-638-3340-9
Tolerance - Single-parent family

Emma's single-parent father has invited Daniel and his mother, whom he became acquainted with through a newspaper ad, to his holiday house in the moun-tains. His daughter protests, but has to put up with the situation. Through their joint experiences, the two very different children get to know each other just as well as the adults. As in his earlier works, Wahl has an excellent manner of drawing his characters and portraying their development. (12+)

Slavic Languages

Czech Republic

217
Bořkovcová, Hana
Zakázané holky
(Forbidden girls)
Praha: Albatros, 1995. 205pp
ISBN 80-00-00216-7
Czechoslovakia/World War II - National Socialism - Everyday life - Friendship

This novel is set in a Czech town in the year 1940. Returning from school holidays, Janka misses his school friend, Dina. As a Jew, Dina is no longer allowed to attend the public high school. Without sentimentality or didacticism, the author depicts everyday life in the protectorate Bohemia and Moravia of Nazi Germany. In a lively narrative using many dialogues, she shows the consequences of the racial discrimination laws from the perspective of a fourteen-year-old girl. The author portrays people who were able to retain their honor, humor and imagination in difficult times. (14+)

218
Černík, Michal (reteller)
Duda, Stanislav (illus.)
Pohádky o kohoutkovi a slepičce
(The tale of the rooster and the hen)
Praha: Sedistra, 1996. 82pp
ISBN 80-85998-02-5
Rooster - Hen - Animal tale

This classic animal tale of the rooster and the hen (building a house, selling eggs, composing a song, etc.) is retold here in a very humorous manner by a Czech author who was already popular in the socialist era. The text is superbly extended by the colorful, impudent illustrations of Stanislav Duda. (6+)

219
Krůta, Jan (text)
Striegl, Aleš (illus.)
Čurumbum
<Proper name>
Praha: Sedistra, 1996. 53pp
ISBN 80-85998-00-9
High-rise building - Everyday life/Child - Dwarf

Little Pet'a moves with his mother from their own house into an apartment in a high-rise building. The tall complex with its many apartments appears unfriendly and cheerless. While exploring the basement area one day he meets the dwarf Čurumbum and with this friend from the world of fantasy he soon finds life in this big house much more fun. This story will appeal especially to children who live in anonymous pre-fabricated housing areas. Even though it may cannot solve the problems of children (and adults) in such houses, it offers them some form of identification. (6+)

220
Šaloun, Emil (text)
Skopal, Rostislav (illus.)
Kak Kašpárek učil čerty zpívat
(How Punch taught the devils to sing)
Boskovice: albert, 1995. 94pp
ISBN 80-85834-32-4
Punch - Devil - Singing

This classic-style, suspenseful Punch story is published by a small publisher located close to Brno. It forms a bridge between contemporary reality and imagination which takes the reader back to the days of rural life in the 19th century. In fairy-tale like episodes the author draws upon the problems and behavioral patterns that we know today in our current society. In an old mill, Punch battles against the devils and of course wins in the end. (6+)

221
Sís, Petr (text/illus.)
Hvězdný posel. Kniha o životě slavného vědce, matematika, astronoma, filozofa a fyzika Galilea Galileiho
(U.S. ed.: Starry messenger. a book depicting the life of a famous scientist, mathematician, astronomer, philosopher, physicist Galileo Galilei)
Praha: Albatros, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 80-00-00473-9
Galilei, Galileo

This latest work by the Czech-American artist Petr Sís about the life and discoveries of Galileo is striking for the vast number of images which the author-illustrator has developed here: the oriental silhouette of an Italian city, reproductions of old maps of Italy and Europe, presentations of the Ptolemiac and Copernican systems with their Zodiac signs, a painting of children playing modelled after Breughel, representations of Galileo's experiments, etc. On all these pictures, which derive from historical sources, Petr Sís sets his own unmistakeable stamp. In every picture one can continually discover new details, sometimes quite evident, sometimes somewhat hidden contextual clues or statements. alongside the illustrations, particular mention should be given to the successful book design, with its ornamentation, pictures within pictures, and the hand-written portions of text. (8+)

222
Stránský, Jiří (text)
Forman, Matěj (illus.)
Povidačky pro Kláru
(Cozy chats for Clara)
Praha: Sedistra, 1996. 100pp
ISBN 80-85998-04-1
Everyday life/Child - Family - Animals

Clara's father is a captain and away for very long stretches of time. But when he comes home, he has lots of time to spend with Mama, Clara and Martin. His merry little stories for Clara, mostly about animals, will entertain both children and adults in their simplicity of style and composition as well as the direct tone of speech. The imaginative illustrations by the puppet player, Matěj Forman, son of the film director Miloš Forman, underline the charm of the story. (6+)

Poland

223
Onichimowska, Anna
Samotne wyspy i storczyk
(Lonely islands and an orchid)
Warszawa: Filipinka, 1994. 127pp
ISBN 83-901110-2-0

224
Onichimowska, Anna
Żegnaj na zawsze (Goodbye forever)
Warszawa: Filipinka, 1996. 145pp
ISBN 83-904937-2-1
Growing up - Love - Interpersonal relations - Modelling

Anna Onichimowska (born 1952) is currently one of the most productive, most talented and most popular authors for young people in Poland. These two books deal with a problematic love story between the shy 18-year-old Ewa and the rather easy-living art student Marek. During their relationship each of them matures in some ways, partly because of the influence of other problems among their friends and family. In the second volume, Ewa finishes school and goes to study in Warsaw, while working part-time as a photographer's model. When she has to choose between university and Marek on the one hand and her blossoming career on the other, she choses the latter and goes off to Paris. In the guise of a light romance, the author deals with a wide variety of problems facing youth and young adults today - family conflicts, couple relationships, drugs, pregnancy and babies. (14+)

225
Terakowska, Dorota
W Krainie Kota (In the land of the cat)
Wrocław: Siedmoróg, 1996. 174pp
ISBN 83-7162-072-1
Tarot - Infant - Cat - Imaginary journey - Reality - Fantasy

A young woman is led into a cryptic world of the tarot by her newborn infant and a mysterious cat. the plot unfolds on two parallel planes - in reality and in the imagination. Each influences the other and the borderline between fiction and reality seems to fade away. At the end of the novel the young mother is found lying in the street in the real world, where she is assumed to be an orphan, while in the imaginary world she is the sister of a lost prince. A happy end seems to be found, but already the next story begins. Another woman is expecting a child and she senses that something is not quite right. This astounding book for older children - there are no child protagonists - suggests that there is acutally no reality at all and that everyone needs one another's help, whether in the imagination or what we consider to be reality. On magical journeys from one world to the other, we can learn much about ourselves. (10+)

Russia

226
Balobanova, Ekaterina Vjačeslavovna (reteller)
Peterson, Ol'ga Michajlovna (reteller)
Gordeev, Denis Dmitrievič (illus.)
Rycari Kruglogo Stola. Predanija Romanskich narodov srednevekovoj Evropy
(The knights of the Round table. Tales of the Romanic peoples in the European Middle Ages)
Moskva: Argus, 1995. 379pp
(Venok skazok / »Predanija sedych vekov«; 1)
ISBN 5-85549-002-5
Legend - Chivalry

There are hardly any books for young adults with a current theme being published in eastern Europe at the present time, but evidently there is a new interest being taken in those historical themes which were largely avoided during the socialist era, such as a positive portrayal of the feudal period. This volume is a comprehensive anthology of romances of chivalry retold by the Russian specialist for western and central European folklore, E.V. Balobanova (1844-1927), and the translator and literary scholar, O.M. Peterson. It includes, among other titles, the »Song of Roland«, tales of the Magician Merlin, the legend of Parcival, the stories of Reynard (a French collection of fox fables), »El Cid« and the Spanish novel »Amadis.« This beautifully designed volume employs a typography borrowed from the Irish alphabet and decorative floral elements in the style of the illuminated manuscripts of the Middle ages. (12+)

227
Judin, Georgij Nikolaevič (text/illus.)
Muromskoe čudo. O svjatom bogatyre Il'e Muromce, Petre i Fevronii, episkope Vasilij i okajannom zmee
(The miracle of Murom. The holy hero Ilya Muromec, Peter and Fevroniya, Bishop Vasiliy and the cursed dragon)
Moskva: Éllis Lak 1995. 144pp
ISBN 5-7195-0042-1
Murom - Saint - Legend/Russia

Ilya Muromec, who lived in the 12th century, is one of the most important figures of Russian heroic ballads (Byliny). In the course of the centuries he has been promoted to a hero per se in the traditional literature. During the socialist era, however, the religious aspects of the legend were largely downplayed. Here the popular children's book author and illustrator Georgij Judin makes rich use of ikon-like pictures to tell the story of Ilya Muromec and other saints from the region of Murom, about 300 kilometers east of Moscow. He writes in a correspondingly historicizing style, placing considerable emphasis on the religious aspects of the legends. (12+)

Slovakia

228
Čínčurová, Emília (text)
Čáp, Vladimír (illus.)
Ahoj, praveké jaštery
(Hello, prehistoric lizards)
Bratislava: Q111, 1995. [68pp]
ISBN 80-85401-25-8
Dinosaurs

This is a particularly original work from the new Slovakian publishing house, Q111. Beginning with the myths and tales of dragons in various countries of the earth, Emília Čínčurová reports about the discoveries of four types of dinosaurs by the English physician and natural scientist, Gideon Mantell. In comic strip style, garnished with funny dialogs between school children while visiting a paleontological museum, information about the size, characteristics, habits and living space of different dinosaur types. There is also use made of the now classic illustrations of the Czech artist Zdeněk Burian. (8+)

Slavic Languages

Slovenia

229
Hoffmann, E.T.A. (text)
Kranjc, Mojca (transl.)
Stupica, Marija Lucija (illus.)
Hrestač in mišji kralj
(The nutcracker and the mouse king)
(German orig.: Nußknacker und Mausekönig)
Ljubljana: DZS, 1996. 75pp
(Zbirka Velikanček; 4)
ISBN 86-341-1264-0
Christmas - Toys - Reality - Fantasy - Battle - Mouse - Nutcracker - Soldier

The former Slovenian State Publishing House has always had a high reputation in Slovenia. Since its privatization, the imprint has only gotten better, particularly in its book design, as proven by this volume. The national and international prize-winning illustrator Marija Lucija Stupica (born 1950) comes from a highly regarded family of artists in Slovenia and has gained renown for her illustrations of H.C. Andersen. Also in her other works she feels more at home in fantasy than in reality. In this work she addresses children as well as adults. The illustrations, done in muted grey, brown and yellow tones, make for a rather cool effect by reducing images to their essentials and using static poses. This corresponds, however, to the melancholy and lyricism of this romantic tale. (8+)

230
Lainšček, Feri (text)
Ribič, Igor (illus.)
Velecirkus argo
(Circus Argo)
Ljubljana: Prešernova družba, 1996. 128pp
ISBN 961-6186-17-5
Reality - Imagination - Magician - Circus - Friendship - Adventure

In this fantasy a magician is able to present the thoughts of a girl, Gela Gela, and a boy, Tulsi Bulsi, to his circus audience as a mysterious realistic projection. By accident the boy and girl find themselves caught up in the mental world of an ape and are unable to return to their own reality. Through a chain of circumstances, Tulsi Bulsi believes that Gela Gela has betrayed him and he becomes harsh and evil. Only after many adventures does she manage to gain his trust again, making their return to the real world possible. After their long odyssee it turns out that they had only been in the ape world for a short time beween two circus performances, so no one except for the magician had known that they were missing. (8+)

231
Tarman, Draga M. (text)
Demšar, Danijel (illus.)
Ko se dan konča
(When the day ends)
Ljubljana: DZS, 1995. 31pp
(Zbirka Čudeži narave; 2)
ISBN 86-341-1400-7
Night - Animals - Plants

This information book about the night is a remarkable combination of highly literary and lyrical texts with well-founded information about the night-time life of animals and plants in different regions. Along with gardens, meadows, ponds and forests in central Europe, the book presents the night-time biosphere in various parts of the tropics. In an appendix the author describes the sensory organs which help animals to find their way through the night. Blue and green tones dominate the atmospheric illustrations . (6+)

Ukraine (Russian)

232
Krotov, Viktor G. (text)
Vlasova, Anna (illus.)
Šerbov, Michail (illus.)
Volšebnyj vozok
(The magic coach)
Each: Odessa: Dva slona, 1995.
(Semejnaja biblioteka; Pervaja kniga dlja detej)
1. Vagik u itsja putešestvovat' (Vagik learns how to travel). 142pp. ISBN 5-86699-043-1
2. Putešestvie v razgrade (Unbounded travels). 202pp. ISBN 5-86699-044-X
3. Vglub' i vvys' (Upwards and downwards). 194pp. ISBN 5-86699-045-8
Imaginary travel - Reality - Imagination

In this three-volume fantasy by the mathematician, novelist and philosopher Viktor Krotkov, in which traces of the »Alice-in-Wonderland« theme can be seen, a magician invites a boy to take a magical journey, in the course of which he must fulfill many tasks before reaching the magic fountain. On his way he encounters many helpful spirits, but also evil creatures. Unlike many fantasy novels from Western countries, this work is not overburdened with intellectual and philosophical issues. The author endeavors instead to help children find their own identity. He worked for 20 years on this novel by telling parts of it in this or similar versions to children orally. In this written edition there still remains something of the direct style of narrative. (10+)

Other Languages

Belgium (Dutch)

233
Boonen, Heide (text)
Dendooven, Gerda (illus.)
Mijn vingers zijn niet lang genoeg
(My fingers aren't long enough)
Averbode: Altiora, 1996. 46pp
ISBN 90-317-1222-1
Mother/Daughter - Death - Accident
Charlotte dreams about her mother, who was killed in a car crash. »Charlotte loved the night, she hated the day. Particularly that day. The car came from nowhere.« At night, she sees her mother again and again in her dreams. Although all the objects in her room, including her doll Cuddles, sympathize with her, they have their own lives as well. For instance, the wardrobe (Napoleon III) is in love with the wardrobe in the neighbor's house across the road, while Dorien, the spider, is pregnant. When the sun takes the place of the moon, Charlotte wakes up sadly, crying. Essentially this story is about a young girl's process of mourning following her mother's death, but amusing situations counterbalance deep-felt emotions in a harmonious way. The story is written in subdued and plain language, which finds its match in the typography and the illustrations. A very special book which will stimulate much thought. (8+)

234
De Maeyer, Gregie (text)
Vanmechelen, Koen (illus.)
Juul <Proper name>
Averbode: Altiora, 1996. 29pp
ISBN 90-317-1196-9
Psychoterror - Bully
This is a daring and challenging story about a boy who wants to escape bullying. He thinks he can save himself by taking away the causes. He shaves his bright red hair, cuts his flap-ears, pinches his squint eyes. Alas, to no avail. A fairy tale of the cruellest sort, with the clearest possible message. A unique project combining a story and pictures of the »unmaking« of a wooden sculpture of Juul, it is ideal for reading and talking about bullying with children in primary schools, and upwards. (6+)

Other Languages /Belgium (Dutch)

235
De Maeyer, Gregie (text/illus.)
Meersman, Karl (illus.)
Ach, (Well,)
Leuven: Davidsfonds/Infodok, 1996. 67pp
ISBN 90-6565-745-2
Bakery - Marzipan

In the bakery, the little rolls, the pies, the monkey cookies and the chocolates are quarreling. Who would be the most tasty one of them all? August, the little marzipan clown, does not join in. He just sits there, looking a little sad. After a while, Marie and Maarten enter the store. They buy a lot of goodies, including August. At home Maarten talks to August while eating him. A very snappy and original story about eating and being eaten to read aloud or to be read by children themselves. The powerful illustrations are always a colorful surprise and go hand in hand with the text. (5+)

The Netherlands (Dutch)

☺ Special Mention

236
Kuiper, Nannie (text)
Hopman, Philip (illus.)
Het kleuterwoordenboek
(The toddler's dictionary)
Amsterdam: Piramide, 1996. 112pp
ISBN 90-245-2584-5
Vocabulary - Short story

In nearly one hundred short stories, each dealing with a particular word, children are taught to extend their vocabulary in a playful manner. The stories are divided into five chapters in which various subjects are dealt with in alphabetical order. Sophy and Martin, who are friends, are the main characters in each story, which means that the book can also be read as a whole. In a very clever way Nannie Kuiper is able to make ideas, emotions, words understandable to very young children. The cheerful, colorful illustrations by Philip Hopman are an excellent complement to the stories, even giving them an extra dimension by treating an idea with humor. (4+)

237
Geelen, Harrie (text/illus.)
Jan en het gras
(Jan and the grass)
Amsterdam: Van Goor, 1996. 36pp
ISBN 90-00-03095-1
Ability - Self-confidence

Jan is good at nothing. At least, that's what he thinks. The grass philosophizes with John about what 'nothing' is. 'Nothing' can also be 'very, very much'. Jan can tread on the grass, pick flowers, play pirate games, and find a buried treasure. He even saves a worm and also 'a funny little animal which lay on its back and couldn't get up anymore'. These heroic deeds are written in the sky in big letters, so that everbody can read about them. A deceptively simple tale, the plot works very subtly. In words and pictures, Geelen places his readers right in the middle of Jan's world. He uses recognizable elements from the world of children in order to explain an abstract notion like 'nothing'. (5+)

238
Leeuwen, Joke van (text/illus.)
Iep!
(Peep!)
Amsterdam: Querido, 1996. 151pp
ISBN 90-214-7326-7
Bird - Assimilation - Freedom

Viegeltje, a »bird-girl«, looks like a human, except for her wings, but has very birdlike habits. Her foster parents, Warre and Tinne, try to raise her as a human child, but Viegeltje keeps her distance from them. Nobody knows what is going on in her mind, but it is clear that she has an enormous longing for freedom, which in the end leads to a nonetheless surprising departure. In order to say goodbye, Warre and Tinne follow her, having some bizarre adventures along the way. The longing for freedom and independence and the fear of being deserted is movingly expressed. The illustrations form an inseparable whole with the text. (10+)

239
Lier, Bas van (text)
Braamhorst, Jan (illus.)
Het VOC-schip »De halve maan«
(The East Indian Company's ship »The half moon«)
Amsterdam: Ploegsma, 1996. 80pp
ISBN 90-216-1199-6
The Netherlands/History 18th century - Trading ship

This story deals with the maiden voyage of »The Half Moon« (a fictitious ship which bears a great deal of resemblance to well-known 18th century ships), which served the United East Indian Company. In this successful combination of fiction and nonfiction, a glorious era in Dutch history is brought to life through the story and in the informative passages dealing not just with heroic deeds, but everyday life as well. The engrossing and historically accurate illustrations are complementary to the text and provide the reader with a great deal of pleasure. (10+)

240
Schubert, Ingrid / Schubert, Dieter (text/illus.)
Abracadabra
Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, 1996. 26pp
ISBN 90-5637-046-4
Forest - Magician - Threat - Animal - Solidarity

Although the animals in Darkwood had never had any trouble with the wizard Macrobius before, suddenly no animal was safe from him. The animals come up with a marvellous magic trick in order to settle accounts with the bad wizard. Together, appearing as one great monster, they scare the living daylights out of the wizard, who flees into the forest. But in the end, they make peace with each other again. This wonderful picture book uses a well-constructed dramatic tension, which resolves into a very satisfactory ending. The illustrations accompanying this amusing story are very detailed, which makes for a beautiful book. (4+)

241
Vijgen, Theo (text)
Nuyten, Peter (illus.)
Tipi's, totems en tomahawks.
Het leven van de Noordamerikaanse Indianen
(Tipis, totem poles and tomahawks.
The life of the North-American Indians)
Nijmegen: SUN, 1996. 183pp
ISBN 90-6168-459-5
North America/Indians

The way Indians are depicted in many children's books is very remote from the truth: from good, noble folk to bloodthirsty savages. This book rectifies this prejudice by providing a clear history of the life of the North-American Indians from the very beginning, about 40,000 years ago. In words and pictures ample attention is paid to the Indians' everyday life, to the various tribes and their chiefs, and to the relationship between Indians and whites. The book concludes with a chapter on life in the reservations, and the current Indian protests with regards to territorial rights. A very full, informative and entertaining history which does full justice to the North-American Indians. (12+) ◇

242
Vriens, Jacques (text)
Schaap, Annet (illus.)
Meester Jaap
(Mr. Jaap)
Houten: Van Holkema en Warendorf, 1996. 45pp
ISBN 90-269-8883-4
School - Teacher - Short story

Every day, something funny happens in Mr. Jaap's classroom. A fight with toilet paper, a Christmas dinner with green cabbage on the menu, or a dress-up party which ends in complete chaos. Sometimes, less pleasant things occur as well, but in these situations Mr. Jaap usually finds an amusing solution. In these twenty stories, Vriens paints a sparkling picture of a classroom with 10- or 11-year-old pupils. All the events are very recognizable, even though it's not every child who has a teacher like this. (10+)

Other Languages

The Netherlands (Frisian)

243
Tjerkstra, Willem (text)
Klazenga, Luuk (illus.)
De reizen fan Tsjam
(The voyages of Tsjam)
Ljouwert [= Leeuwarden]: Afûk, 1996. 42pp
(Aksjeboek foar bern; 10)
ISBN 90-6273-524-X
Friesland/History - Imaginary journey

This is the first comic book in full color to originate in Friesland. The protagonist, Tsjam, is a special child, for he was born with a helmet on his head. With his one eye, he is able to spread confusion. He wants to go to the sea and ends up in different times, in ancient folk tales which have to do with the sea. With Bruno and Sakso he travels to the north of the Netherlands, where they each try to find their own territory. Again and again, with his magical eye, Tsjam influences the course of history. On each page, the true course of events is depicted along with history as it is changed by Tsjam. After all his adventures, Tsjam finally reaches his home again, safe and sound. This is a Children's Book Week »action book«, which in a simple fashion tries to promote the Frisian language by appealing to children's predilection for comic books and historical tales. (8+) ◇

Greece

244
Akalestu, Rula
Moro mu sagapo
(My baby, I love you)
Athena: Ammos, 1996. [14pp]
ISBN 960-202-150-0
Mother - Baby - Animals

This picture book for the very young deals with the theme of mother and child, both in the animal kingdom and the human world. The illustrations of the young, free-lance artist (born 1964) are both striking and full of expression that the book could even succeed without words. (2+)

☺ Special Mention

245
Balabanes, Panos
Athla, Athletes kai Epathla. Olympiakoi agones kai athletismos sten archaia Ellada
(Championships, athletes, and medals. The Olympic Games and sports in ancient Greece)
Nea Smyrne: Ereunetes, 1996. 104pp
ISBN 960-368-023-0
Greece/Olympic games - Sports

The author, a professor of archeology, not only presents the ancient types of sports, their history and rules, but also puts them in a social context. He endeavors to show the importance of each athletic competition and help the modern reader understand the atmosphere of those times. Striking in both text and illustration, the book will satisfy the needs of a demanding reader. An appendix which includes an international bibliography and additional information on this topic encourages further reading. (10+)

246
Grimane, Anna (adapt.)
Mia Kyriake me ton Demetre Mytara
(A sunday with Demetres Mytaras)
Athena: Ammos, 1996. [34pp]. With illus.
(Mia Kyriake me...)
ISBN 960-202-134-9
Mytaras, Demetres - Painting

In this richly illustrated book the artistic development of one of the most important contemporary Greek artists, Demetres Mytaras, is told from the first-person point of view. In a very individual tone, the artists leads the reader through his various periods of creation and explains the background of his works. Furthermore he endeavors to make his approach to art more accessible und understandable to the interested reader. In an appendix, further biographical information about Mytaras as well as other artists who he refers to in the text are given. (10+)

247
Marra, Eirene
To adeio mpukali
(The empty bottle)
Athena: Patakes, 1996. 168pp
(Peristeria; 52)
ISBN 960-360-930-7
Greece/World War II - Family - Everyday life - Resistance

In this vividly told story about a Greek family living in occupied Athens during the Second World War, a mother and her two sons, aged eight and sixteen, struggle day-by-day to survive after their father has become a resistance fighter in the Greek underground. Particularly the younger boy gradually comes to a greater understanding of the conditions in which they are living during the course of the story. The characters and the setting are very realistically drawn and remain believable throughout the story. (10+) ✧
(Greek IBBY Section Award 1996)

248
Sarantite, Elene
Kapote o kynegos ...
(Once a hunter ...)
Athena: Kastaniotes, 1996. 170pp
(Ephebike Bibliotheke)
ISBN 960-03-1542-6
Greece/Civil War - Emigration - Homecoming - Prejudice

This realistic novel about a Greek family begins at the time of the Civil War at the end of the Second World War and describes their odyssee-like journey toTashkent, where they remain for forty years. Upon returning to their homeland, their hopes of putting down roots again in modern-day Greece are met with disappointment when they are confronted with prejudice against people who had fled the country. In spite of its serious topic, this is a thoroughly enjoyable youth novel and will also appeal to adult readers. (12+) ✧

249
Simopulos, Dionyses
E gennese ton Astron
(The birth of the stars)
Nea Smyrne: Ereunetes, 1996. 105pp
(Ta mystika tu sympantos)
ISBN 960-368-022-2
Astronomy - Space

This first volume of a series titled »The secrets of space«, written by an internationally renown astrophysicist, describes how the universe began. Using many color photos and drawings, the complicated subject matter of astronomy, as well as the development of astronomy as a science, is made understandable in a thoroughly humorous manner. (10+)

Iran (Persian)

(Transliteration according to German norms)

250
H̱uda-ğū, Furūzanda (text)
Muẖammaīyān, Hūšang (illus.)
Ǵūrāb-i pašmī
(The woolen socks)
Tihrān: Kānūn-i Parwariš-i Fikrī-i Kūdakān wa Nūğawānān, 1994 (=1373 h.š.). 18pp
Poverty - Friendship - Charity

A boy from a poor family dreams of having woolen socks. He works to earn enough money and at least is able to buy them for himself but when he visits his sick and shivering friend, he sees that his friend has greater need of the socks than he does. The main theme of this realistic first-person story is the determination and ability of the boy to reach his goal as well as the readiness to give up something and share with others. (10+)

251
Sādāt Turābīyān, Ma'sūma (text)
Hasan-pūr, Muhsan (illus.)
Parwāz-i kabūtarhā
(The flight of the doves)
Tihrān: Daftar-i Našir-i Farhang-i Islāmī, 1994
(=1373 h.s.). 60pp
(in Arabic letters)
no ISBN
Family conflict - Art - Courage

This novella focusses on the family conflicts of two young high-school girls, and in particular on their strained relations with their fathers. Encouraged by their art teacher, they discover and try to develop their talents as a painter and a calligrapher, respectively, in spite of all outside pressures and obstacles. The role of their woman art teacher both as a mentor in the classroom and as a model to follow in personal life features strongly in the narrative. This realistic story places value on maintining loyalty in difficult situations, but also on having the optimism and the courage to follow one's own path. (14+) ✧

Turkey

252
Çakıroğlu, Atilâ (reteller)
Keskin, Nermin (illus.)
Keloğlan <Proper name>
Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı Millî Kütüphane
Basımevi, 1996. 46pp
ISBN 975-17-1420-6
Turkey/Folktale - Cleverness - Miracles

This volume contains four stories featuring the well-known Turkish folk hero Keloğlan. These traditional humorous tales, retold here in verse form, describe several episodes in the life of the bald, jovial boy who lives alone with his mother. Using only his own cleverness, he masters all kinds of obstacles and difficulties. In these tales he manages to marry the daughter of the Pasha, to successfully do battle with his own hunger, and to work miracles through his compassion. (10+)

Young and Old – Generations in Dialog

Within the nuclear families predominant in modern industrial societies, the continuing dialog between generations, which is so important, has begun to falter, especially between senior citizens and young people. Older people often feel themselves pushed aside by society's cult of youth and fascination with progress, while young people often see themselves as being restricted without reason.

In order to encourage more appreciation for the experiences of the older generation and for the altered perspectives and life styles of the youngest generation, the German Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth seeks to improve communication across the generations, across the »age gap«. With the support of this ministry and in cooperation with the German IBBY section (Arbeitskreis für Jugendliteratur e.V.), the International Youth Library has organized a travelling exhibition on this theme. Very well received, it has been shown in thirteen sites around Germany in 1996 and is booked up for all of 1997. Nearly 100 titles in the exhibition are in the German language (of which nearly half are translations from other languages) but 23 recent foreign-language books were also included which had not yet been translated into German. This international selection and several newer German titles are presented here. They demonstrate how this important topic, in all its many facets - such as tolerance, misunderstanding or mistrust, experience, memories, or death - has occupied the minds of writers and readers all over the world.

253 ***Spanish***

Barrena Garcia, Pablo (text)
Bernal, Luis (illus.)
¡Que me parta un rayo!
(May lightning strike me)
Barcelona: Edebé, 1991. 134pp
(Periscopio; 4)
ISBN 84-236-2555-9

Old Perico has only recently moved into his son's household. He feels like a stranger and senses their rejection. His son and daughter-in-law see in him primarily a burden and even an imposition. Even 12-year-old Luis is glad when he doesn't have to have anything to do with his grandfather. In alternating chapters Luis and Perico describe the same things from different perspectives. Seen from their own point of view, each seems to be »right«, but it also becomes clear how relative their positions are. Although all three generations do learn from each other and gradually come closer, their points of conflict, which sometimes become even aggressive, are still open up to the end. There is no happy end here, only a greater effort to be tolerant and accepting. (12+)

254 ***Swedish***

Bexell, Eva
Prostens barnbarn
(The grandsons of the superintendent)
[Stockholm]: Bonniers Juniorforl., 1992. 82pp
ISBN 91-48-52066-7

Kalabalik hos morfar prosten!
(Commotion at Grandfather's, the superintendent)
[Stockholm]: Bonniers Juniorforl., 1992. 85pp
ISBN 91-48-52067-5

Opp och hoppa, morfar prosten!
(Up and jump, Grandfather the superintendent)
[Stockholm]: Bonniers Juniorforl., 1992. 76pp
ISBN 91-48-52066-7

In these three volumes (first appearing in 1976, 1978 and 1987) the author shows in a very humorous manner that the gap between two generations which are separated both by time and historical experience can be bridged. Two boys (aged five and seven) are to spend the holidays with their grandparents. At first very sceptical, they gradually grow accustomed to each other, even though their favorite customs, such as the Christmas celebration, do not come off without incident. Originally a radio series, the author has created a very amusing, readable story, which also would appeal to readers outside of Sweden. (10+)

255 *English*

Bunting, Eve (text)
Himler, Ronald (illus.)
A day's work
New York: Clarion, 1994. 32pp
ISBN 0-395-67321-6

Francisco, a young Mexican-American, accompanies his Spanish-speaking grandfather, who has just come from Mexico to join his children, while looking for a job. The lies that Francisco tells in order to get his grandfather a job as a gardener gets them both in trouble, because his grandfather is quite ignorant of plants. But due to his honesty, grandfather is allowed to make up for his mistake and he may even be given a longterm contract. But more importantly, Franciso gets to know this old, white-haired man better and learns an important lesson in life. The fact that he had this experience with his grandfather, rather than his own parents, shows how important the relationship between young and old can be for the continuity of a culture. (5+)

256 *Turkish*

Dölek, Sulhi
Arkadassim dede
(My friend grandfather)
Istanbul: Remzi Kitabevi, 1981. 86pp
no ISBN

This story describes the experiences of an old man and a young boy during their journey from a small Anatolian town to Istanbul. The young boy is eager to learn and treats the old man with respect. When they go their own ways at the end of a richly rewarding time together, they have become friends. The author describes in simple terms and with much dialog how such a close relationship can arise in a short time between generations. (12+)

257 *French*

Guillot, Claude (text)
Burckel, Fabienne (illus.)
Grand-mère avait connu la guerre
(Grandmother knew the war)
Paris: Seuil Jeunesse, 1994. [36pp]
ISBN 2-02-022473-9

In her picture book about grandmother, the little granddaughter has no picture of grandmother herself. Instead, page after page presents a different room in grandmother's house in which she engages in a secret and thorough journey of discovery through all of the cupboards and closets. The innumerable little objects of daily life which come into view remind the child intensely of her grandmother's individuality and seem even to be a part of her. They are inseparable parts of her memories of grandmother. (5+)

258 *German*

Härtling, Peter
Jette <Proper name>
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1995. 129pp
ISBN 3-407-79683-8

Jette is often left to her own devices. Thus she is pleased to have the friendship of two older gentlemen in the bookstore across the street who in turn encourage her love for literature. When the suspicion is raised that Jette is being sexually molested there, her magical (fairytale-) world is destroyed. She feels humiliated by suspicious adults who think they know everything. Full of insight, but avoiding sensationalism, the author writes about this volatile issue from an unusual point of view (12+)

259 *English*

Haskins, Francine (text/illus.)
Things I like about Grandma
San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 1992.
[32pp]
ISBN 0-89239-107-3

An African-American girl describes all the everyday activities she undertakes with her grandmother at home, in the yard and in their leisure time. The Black protagonists and their surroundings are portrayed in double-paged scenes densely painted with bold colors in a somewhat naive, cartoon-like style. (5+)

260 *English*

Hathorn, Libby (text)
Elivia (illus.)
Grandma's shoes
Ringwood: Viking/Penguin, 1994. [32pp]
ISBN 0-670-85980-X

For the first-person narrator of this story, a young girl, her grandmother's shoes become the symbol of an emptiness, but also of continuity between an older, now deceased person, and his descendents. The painful bereavement in the eventful and confusing days that follow death are very empathetically portrayed in full-paged watercolor pictures. The very significant and close relationship between the young child and the older woman, who is no longer there, is made palpable. The long farewell is an important experience for the narrator and an occasion for discussion between adult and child readers and viewers. (4+)

261 *Italian*

I nonni secondo i ragazzi delle scuole di Trieste
(Grandparents, as portrayed by school-children of Trieste)
Udine: Campanotto, 1993. 96pp
(Zeta Ragazzi; 7)
no ISBN

This book presents the results of a survey of many schoolchildren about their grandparents. The basic tone of the often amusing stories the children tell is that grandparents play an eminently important function. Without them, families are incomplete. Many of the stories are also quite revealing because they tell about the everyday life of the children of the Slovenian minority in Italy. Those pieces are printed in facsimile and then translated. The book is rounded off with children's drawings. (10+)

262 *Japanese*

Kimura, Shôhei (text)
Yamazaki, Takumi (illus.)
Watashi wa obâchanga suki
(I like my grandmother)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1994. 38pp
ISBN 4-8340-1249-2

When Makiko's grandmother returns home from the hospital after an accident, her mind seems to be paralyzed. Makiko is greatly concerned and tries to bring her grandmother to speak again by asking questions about things they have shared together. When she looks into a mirror, grandmother gradually begins to recognize herself. To portray the process up to that moment and Makiko's feelings, the illustrator uses a daring, rather abstract style of painting. The prismatic images and flowing colors are accessible to the child beholder thanks to the clear text. (6+)

263 *French*

Laurencin, Geneviève (text)
Pef (illus.)
Le dimanche noyé de grand-père
(Grandfather's drowned Sunday)
Rennes: Ouest-France, 1992. 44pp
ISBN 2-7373-0525-X
(Reprint ed.: Paris: Gallimard, 1994)

Unlike his father and mother, Grégoire shows love and understanding for his grandpa. When he appears for a Sunday visit, unkempt and senile, Grégoire is happy. He enjoys his grandpa's anarchic table manners and his clumsy games. Grandpa and Grégoire are two of a kind, but grandpa is allowed to do all those things that children are usually forbidden. Then suddenly he has a fall. Thinking at first this is a new game, Grégoire is witness to his grandfather's death struggle.

The illustrations harmonize perfectly with the text. Grandfather's steady decline is reflected in his distorted expressions. Toward the end, the rhythm of the pictures and words accelerates. Breathless, like the stammering of grandpa's agony, the figures seem to be cast hurridly onto the page. The caricaturized illustrations provide the necessary emotional distance for the child beholder who, like Grégoire, is captivated by the grandfather. The final image creates a certain protective distance as grandfather, rolled up like a baby, floats away in a nocturnal sea. This courageous undertaking of making senility and agony accessible to children breaks a taboo. By making it possible to perceive both its horror and its fascination, a way is also provided to accept the process of dying. (7+)

Young and Old – Generations in Dialog

264 *German*

Limmacher, Roland
Juliluft (The winds of July)
Zürich: Diogenes, 1995. 136pp
ISBN 3-257-06034-3

Julius, nicknamed Schüül, makes friends with an old man and his younger companion who are putting together a Cadillac from the wrecks in a car scrap yard where the old man lives. Then the two men get into trouble with the police, they run away, taking Schüül - against his will - with them. He must find his way home all alone - the way from childhood to adulthood. He sees his friend just one more time, when the police have extradicted him and placed him in a mental hospital. The author convincingly portrays the difficulties of balancing freedom and self-determination for both a young boy and an old man in our society. (14+)

265 *Swedish*

Linde, Gunnel (text)
Nygren, Tord (illus.)
En som har tur (Someone who is lucky)
Stockholm: Norstedts, 1993. 85pp
ISBN 91-1-927452-1

Niki and Anton travel with their father to visit their grandmother in the country. She is a practical, understanding person who remains quietly in the background, giving the children a feeling of security while they experience all kinds of boisterous adventures with happy endings. Only sparingly is it made clear that she also has to deal with problems such as her grief at the death of her husband. (8+)

266 *English*

Mahy, Margaret (text)
Chamberlain, Margaret (illus.)
A busy day for a good grandmother
New York: Margaret K. McElderry, 1993. [28pp]
ISBN 0-689-50595-7
(1. ed.: London: Hamish Hamilton, 1993)

This lively grandmother has none of the stereotypical characteristics of an old grandmother. She is daring, sporty, clever and adventurous - but also helpful and caring, for example, when her desparate son is at a loss to care for his own baby. The very lively, humorous illustrations in pen and watercolor present a modern family of the 1990s. It focusses on an older person who is both model and helper for the younger generation. (4+)

267 *Italian*

Milani, Mino (text)
Lucini, Carmen (illus.)
L'ultimo lupo (The last wolf)
Casale Monferrato: Piemme, 1995 (1993). 148pp
(Il battello a vapore. Serie rossa; 11)
ISBN 88-384-3711-4
(Spanish ed.: El último lobo. Madrid: SM, 1995)

Mario is over 80 years old and lives alone in a remote mountain village, which he refuses to leave. One day he is visited by his twelve-year-old grandnephew Enzo, a spoiled city child who reacts to this lonely and modest old man with resistance, mistrust and even disgust. But Mario succeeds in awaking the boy's curiosity and compassion. A hunt for the supposedly last wolf in the mountain valley is only the apparent focus of this realistic, sympathetic story. More important is the confrontation of two different generations and ways of life. Mino Milani depicts the lack of respect for an older person, but also makes the wolf hunt a symbol of the indifference toward life, the uncaring way of dealing with nature a metaphor of man's treatment of older people. (12+)

268 *Japanese*

Nomura, Takaaki (text/illus.)
Ojiichan no machi (Grandfather's neighborhood)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1994 (1989). 32pp
ISBN 4-06-129680-9

Ever since the death of his wife, Yûta's grandfather has lived alone in a neighboring city. Yûta and his parents are concerned about him and want him to move in with them. One day Yuta and his mother pay him a visit; grandfather and grandson make a trip to the local swimming pool. Along the way Yûta reali-zes that his grandfather does not lead a lonely life, but instead feels very much at home in his familiar surroundings. The author emphasizes the indepen-dence of older people in the accustomed surroundings as being preferable to family care outside of their social setting. The scenes of everyday in a typical Japanese neigh-borhood are vividly portrayed in wood-cut pictures. (6+)
(31st Japanese picture book prize »Ehon Nippon-shô«)

Young and Old – Generations in Dialog

269 *German*

Obrecht, Bettina (text)
Meyer, Kerstin (illus.)
Jonas läßt sich scheiden (Jonas gets divorced)
Hamburg: Oetinger, 1995. 64pp
ISBN 3-789 1-0505-8

Jonas has two moms, two dads, five grannies and three grandpas, as well as several half-brothers and half-sisters because his parents are divorced and remarried. His friend Pablo and his mother, who is also separated from her husband, share a flat with others. Jonas and Pablo decide to switch families on a trial basis, but it doesn't work out. Jonas comes to the realization that to get a divorce one must be an adult. This story is a delightful reminiscence on the days of the student revolution generation and shows ie difficulties which children have with their elders. (8+)

270 *Dutch*

Opmeer, Kees (text)
Straaten, Harmen van (illus.)
Het vergeetboek (The book of forgetting)
Kampen: La Rivière & Voorhoeve, 1995. 107pp
ISBN 90-384-0820-x

Iet's grandmother becomes more and more forgetful, has more and more trouble recognizing people, and starts to act like a child more and more often. Sometimes this saddens Iet (especially when she doesn't recognize her own grandchild anymore) but sometimes it's funny as well. For instance, when grandmother does or says things which children aren't allowed to say or do. When the situation gets out of control, grandmother is put into a home. The friendship between grandmother and granddaughter is depicted very astutely in this book. Their relationship becomes closer and closer in the six months in which the story takes place, but Iet can't do anything but witness how their relationship dissipates as her grandmother's consciousness gradually fades away. (10+)

271 *English*

Pratchett, Terry
Johnny and the dead
London: Doubleday, 1993. 173pp
ISBN 0-385-40301-1

This bizarre fantasy story begins when 12-year-old Johnny is able to see and talk with the dead in his neighborhood graveyard. They are long-deceased citizens of his town, and by no means merely ghosts. Johnny befriends several of these eccentric and highly temperamental »people« of past generations. Out of curiosity he researches their lives and times. Ultimately he organizes an effort to keep their »home« from being razed by bulldozers for a new building project, when he comes to realize that this place also has meaning for the living. Pratchett skilfully weaves elements of horror, comedy and fantasy with a deep-seated humanistic philosophy of life in a story written in an upbeat youthful voice. He readily shows how old and young people can learn to understand each other and be of help to one another. (12+)

272 *English*

Rayner, Shoo (text/illus.)
Grandad's concrete garden
London: Young Lions/Harper Collis, 1994. 64pp
ISBN 0-00-674849-X

With great enthusiasm the first-person narrator accompanies his grandfather day after day in his new life, retirement. No longer having to work, grandfather awakens to a second life as a gardening artist. The resulting rumpus is clearly depicted in black-and-white drawings and an easy-to-read text (also suited for learners of English) in a very entertaining style. Although their relation-ship is not the main theme of the book, the young boy's involvement in his grandfather's daily life and adventures subtly shows how the younger generation can sympathize with the life circumstances of the older generation. (8+)

Young and Old – Generations in Dialog

273 *English*

Smith, Barbara A.
Somewhere just beyond
New York: Atheneum, 1993. 86pp
ISBN 0-689-31877-4

Callie has always had a close relationship with her grandparents who live on a farm. Three years after the death of her grandfather, she accompanies her aunt to the farm when her grandmother becomes bed-ridden after a fall. Callie has difficulty dealing with the helplessness and gradually encroaching senility of her rapidly aging grandmother. Smith portrays the multiple relationships of an extended family from Callie's perspective in first-person narrative. The novel clearly shows how a child reacts to undesired changes in her relationship with an older family member. In the end Callie learns to accept her grandmother's death and carry on with her own life. (10+)

274 *German*

Tschinag, Galsan
Der blaue Himmel
(The blue skies)
Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1994. 177pp
ISBN 3-51840596-9

As children, members of the Mongolian tribe, the Tuvinians, learn how to behave in each specific situation as part of the group - by listening, observing, imitating and helping. One of the most important figures in the life of the first-person narrator is his »grandmother«, an old woman not related by blood, who long ago just appeared at their camp and stayed when she and the boy no longer wanted to part. The power of this remarkable text lies in its long »inner wind«, which challenges the imagination and conveys the rhythm of tension and restfulness in the life of the nomadic village. The author of this autobiogaphical story was born in Tuva in 1944 and studied German in the German Democratic Republic from 1962 to 1968. (10+)

275 *English*

Walsh, Jill Paton (text)
Williams, Sophy (illus.)
When grandma came
London: Viking, 1992. [32pp]
ISBN 0-670-83581-1

The close relationship between a grandmother and her granddaughter who see each other only sporadically is expressed in gentle watercolor pictures. The text is narrated from the grandmother's point of view as she lovingly admires her growing granddaughter. Finally there comes the heart-warming reply of the young girl »I love you, too, grandma.« At first the grandmother is the only one to understand the pleasure and joy they have in each other, but gradually the child also grows to realize that she has something to give in return. (4+)

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The White Ravens 1998

A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

INTERNATIONALE JUGEND BIBLIOTHEK München
International Youth Library

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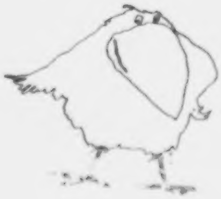
The
White Ravens 1998



A Selection of International Children's and Youth Literature

Internationale Jugendbibliothek
München

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Preface

The »White Ravens« catalog has become a solid tradition over the years. Throughout each year the language specialists (Lektoren) at the International Youth Library (IYL) pick out newly published books which they consider especially noteworthy. This »premium label« is given to books of international interest which deserve a wider reception on account of their universal theme and/or their exceptional and often innovative artistic and literary style and design .

This publication appears each year just prior to the Children's Book Fair in Bologna and is presented, along with the books themselves, at that international gathering of subject specialists. This year's collection contains ***253 titles in 28 languages from 46 countries, as well as 24 titles in a special appendix.*** *It certainly makes no claim to being exhaustive. The titles are drawn from the books which the IYL received as review or donation copies in 1997 from publishers around the world. Unfortunately, not all publishing houses which consistently and generously supply the IYL with their books can be featured here every year. Still, we cordially thank each and every one of them for their shipments of books.*

We can assure our donors that their books will be cataloged, indexed by subject and included in our depository collection. In this way they are permanently available for use by the international clientele of specialists who visit our study library, make use of our reference services from afar, or consult our holdings since 1993 per Internet via the Bavarian Library Network (http://www-opac.bib-bvb.de). Over the years many books also find their way into thematic travelling exhibitions, topical bibliographies and lists, activity programs for children, etc.

In this catalog some books are given additional labels. First of all, there are ***»special mentions«*** *to which the library's Lektoren wish to draw particular attention. The* ***symbol*** *✧ marks those books whose content is found to contribute to an international understanding among cultures and people. In this way we remind ourselves and our readers of the working maxim under which Jella Lepman founded the International Youth Library and which in these times is still of utmost concern. The* ***symbol*** *✿ is assigned to books whose text is judged to be easily understand-able, i.e. easy-to-read texts, and yet dealing with topics of interest to older children. Hence these books are well-suited to foreign-language readers and for inclusion in foreign language collections of public and school libraries.*

For the fourth time this catalog also includes a short section dedicated to a special topic. This year's special bibliography presents the works of the internationally well-known author Michael Ende (1929-1995). His books (30 titles in 450 first editions in over 40 languages) are a permanent part of the newly established ***Michael Ende Museum*** *at the International Youth Library (see p. 67).*

We have been asked about the reasons for organizing the catalog on the basis of languages and language groups. We know that our system is not perfect and that a group of »other languages« is left over. Yet we believe we have found a system which makes the catalog easy to use.

Last but not least, we renew our request to all publishers: Please continue to send us your new titles. We, for our part, will endeavor to fulfill the expectation that the International Youth Library in Munich is the home of the most comprehensive collection of international literature for children and young people.

Dr. Barbara Scharioth
March 1998

East Asian Languages

Japan

1
Fujimaki, Kumiko (text)
Tsuchida, Yoshiharu (illus.)
Fushigina yukidaruma
(The wonderous snowman)
Tokyo: Kin no hoshisha, 1996. 92pp
(Shin tomodachi bunko; 9)
ISBN 4-323-02009-0
Father/Son - Longing - Help - Snowman

The father of seven-year old Fûta is missing in the mountains. Then one day his mother falls sick from overwork. To get her some medicine, Fûta goes into the village alone at night. Suddenly there is a snowman behind him, a protector. His love for his parents, longing for his father, the childlike fear of darkness and his encounter with the at first mysterious snowman who becomes more and more like his father - all these realistic and phantastic elements work together to form a sensitive story and a beginning reader of literary quality. (7+) ☼

2
Gunji, Nanae (text)
Orimo, Kyôko (illus.)
Beruna no me wa Nanae san no me
(Beruna's eyes are Nanae's eyes)
Tokyo: Doshinsha, 1996. (2nd ed.). 36pp
(Ehon. Kodomo no hiroba)
ISBN 4-494-00872-9
Blind woman - Seeing-eye dog - Everyday life - Prejudice

After strenuous exercises to learn how to handle a seeing-eye dog, Nanae finally gets her own dog named Beruna. This expands her possibilities to take part in a normal everyday life considerably. But with her large dog she also encounters prejudice and lack of understanding. The problems of blind people in society are explained for children in an easily understandable way in this narrative picture book with colorful collage illustrations. (6+)

3
Hirokawa, Ryûich (text/photos)
Kawada, Etsuko (text)
Ryûhei no mirai. Eizu to tatakau 19sai
(Ryûei's future. A 19-year old's battle against AIDS)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1996. (9th ed.). 112pp
ISBN 4-06-207517-2
HIV - Hemophiliac - Public protest - Public information - Will to live

Ryûei has suffered since birth from hemophilia and became infected with HIV through an imported blood serum. After accepting this twist of fate, he began to protest against the responsible institutions who caused this medical damage through carelessness. He makes public appearances, especially for young audiences, in order to inform them and improve the negative image of AIDS patients. The photojournalist Hirokawa has documented Ryûei's activities in excellent photos, enabling the tremendously constructive attitude of this 19-year old boy to make a strong impression on readers. (13+) ✧

4
Iizawa, Kôtarô (comp.)
Ajia sono hi sono hi
(Asia day by day)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan, 1997. 172pp
ISBN 4-8340-1471-1
Asia - Culture - Mankind - Nature - Life

Since 1976 the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for Unesco (ACCU) has organized an annual photography competition to promote the use of photography and to further mutual understanding and friendship in its member countries. The jubilee edition of the 20th competition with the motto »To feel Asia is to know Asia« encompasses 163 photos which were taken by amateur photographers in Asian countries between 1986 and 1996. They give a direct glimpse into the diversity of this part of the world. This photodocumentation (with texts in Japanese and English) can be recommended as an excellent book for use in schools, libraries and also families. (7+) ✧

5

Kanzawa, Toshiko (text)
Horiuchi, Seiichi (illus.)
Gin no honoo no kuni
(The land of the silvery flames)
Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten, 1997.
(Improved ed.). 372pp
(Fukuinkan sôsaku dôwa shirîzu)
ISBN 4-8340-1439-8
Life/Death - Justice - Survival - Reindeer - Wolf - Power struggle

After pronouncing a magic formula in fun, a brother and sister are suddenly torn out of their everyday lives. They find themselves in »the far north« of a fictitious country where a power struggle has erupted between the reindeer and the wolves. In accord with an ancient saying, these two figures are able to restore peace. In this dualistic story about life and survival, told in a rich language, the author deals with the issue of natural justice, i.e. the killing of other living creatures for the sake of one's own survival - where the death of one means life to another. (10+)

6

Kimishima, Hisako (text)
Ono, Kaoru (illus.)
Gin no udewa
(The silver armband)
Tokyo: Iwanami shoten, 1997. [40pp]
ISBN 4-00-110635-3
China/Tales - Cinderella

The oldest version of the fairy tale motif »Cendrillon« can be dated back to the 9th century in China, i.e. 800 years earlier than the well-known versions retold by Perrault and Basile. The sinologist Kimishima, whose area of specialization is fairy tales, retells a version known among the Yi ethnic group, and Ono supplements the text with ethnologically and culturally authentic illustrations. Unlike the more familiar versions, a silver armband takes on the function of the golden slipper, and after her marriage the heroine must first die and come to life again before finally achieving happiness, helped in this version by a cow and a magpie. (8+) ✧ ☼

7

Minamimoto, Shigeru (text/illus.)
Boku wa chiisana shiroi fune
(I am a little white ship)
Tokyo: Shikosha, 1996. [46pp]
no ISBN
Ship - Happiness - Modesty - Philosophy of life

Everyday the little ship Chiro brings children from the outlying islands to kindergarten on the large island. Sometimes it dreams of being a luxurious passenger ship, but the pleasures it has in the lively children, the screeching seagulls and its fellow ships make it so happy that Chiro can enjoy its peaceful life and security. Following his own personal philosophy of life, the author presents the happiness of modest individuals. The idyllic pictures with gentle outlines and harmonious colors convey to readers a kind of healing strength. (3+)

8

Miyazawa, Kenji (text)
Tôyama, Shigetoshi (illus.)
Otsuberu to zô
(Otsuberu and the elephant)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1997. 40pp
(Nihon no dôwa meisakusen)
ISBN 4-03-963690-2
Big landowner - Exploitation - Solidarity - Justice

A great white elephant comes from the forest to work for the big landowner, Otsuberu. He mercilessly makes the naive, hard-working giant work himself to bone, until - nearly exhausted - the elephant calls upon his friends of the forest to free him. Highly venerated in Buddhist teachings, the white elephant plays a symbolic role in this modern fairy tale, set in earlier times, about justice, freedom and the conflict between landowners and peasants. The landscape of India is impressively rendered in oil painting illustrations. (10+)

9
Moriyama, Miyako (text)
Sano, Yôko (illus.)
Mahô tsukai no kurisumasu
(The sorceress' Christmas)
Tokyo: Akane shobo, 1997. [24pp]
(Akane sôsaku ehon; 38)
ISBN 4-251-03038-9
Sorceress - Jealousy - Metamorphosis - Saint Nicholas - Christmas - Love - Caring

Love and gift-giving is a favorite theme in Christmas stories. The sorceress is jealous of Saint Nicholas because he is beloved among children, so she tries to interfere with his good deeds. She turns herself into a Santa Claus and creates presents for the children through sorcery. But the children don't react as she had hoped and she is deeply disappointed. Full of anger, she turns herself into a little girl and, much to her surprise, receives caring attention and a gift from the old saint. This fully new experience makes her very happy at last. (5+)

10
Sasô, Yôko (text)
Yamada, Naito (illus.)
Bokura no saitê no natsu
(Our spoiled summer)
Tokyo: Kodansha, 1997. 166pp
(Wakuwaku raiburarî)
ISBN 4-06-195684-1
Friendship - Family conflict

Punished for playing a dangerous game at school, two boys must spend their holidays cleaning the school's swimming pool. Their summer holidays seem to be ruined, except that their forced labor gives them the opportunity to become friends and also get to know each other's brothers and sisters better. In this way each of them gains insight into the problems of another family and learns how to recognize what is important in life. These attractive main characters, open and honest teenagers, are vividly portrayed by the author in a casual, readable style. (11+)

11
Satô, Takako (text)
Harada, Takehide (illus.)
Iguanakun no ojamana mainichi
(Day for day with our troublesome iguana)
Tokyo: Kaiseisha, 1997. 263pp
(Kaiseisha otanoshimi kurabu)
ISBN 4-03-610110-2
Green iguana - House pet - Gift - Family - Everyday life

Unfortunate circumstances force Juri and her parents to take in a iguana. The daily care they must give to this expensive and time-consuming house guest, which lives a quiet and seemingly carefree existence in its own green dreamworld, brings about a change in their consciousness. In spite of the financial burdens it creates, they are able to free themselves from their predicament. This is a crazy, entertaining family story with which readers living in a hectic and stress-filled world will be able to identify and enjoy for relaxation. (11+)

12
Suemori, Chieko (text)
Tsuo, Michiko (illus.)
Papa niwa tomodachi ga takusan ita
(Papa had many friends)
Tokyo: Suemori Books, 1995. [38pp]
ISBN 4-915777-14-6
Father - Death - Grief - Sympathy - Role model

How do children cope with the death of a parent? This picture book attempts to give an answer. The sudden death of a family's father was an unbelievable shock for both his wife and his two sons. Retreating from the world, the mother does nothing but listen to her husband's favorite music, while the boys try on his pullovers, seeking contact with him in that way. As the boys visit his workplace and become acquainted with a part of his world they had not known before, they discover a fully new image of their father. His co-workers, energetic and fully involved in their work, help the unhappy boys to overcome their grief. The father with so many dear friends becomes a role model that gives them a new optimistic outlook on life. The sparse text and illustrations done in the style of fashion drawings - a rather unconventional choice for this topic - complement each other convincingly. (7+)

13
Takadono, Hôko (text/illus.)
Kirokochan to midori no kutsu
(Little Kiroko and the green shoes)
Tokyo: Akane shobo, 1997. (4th ed.). 169pp
(Ohanashi fesuta; 7)
ISBN 4-251-04057-0
Shoe - Mirror image - Stubbornness - Considerateness

Kiroko's new shoes are very stubborn and cause her much trouble, because she can only move as they want to move. Suddenly she begins to dance smoothly or has to run quickly, even if it is dangerous. Gradually she learns to adjust to the shoes and they get along well together. This funny, fantasy story, written in a fast-paced child-like language, conveys the message that everyday life would be much easier and full of harmony if people would be more disciplined and be consi-derate of one another. (9+)

☺ Special Mention

14
Tang, Yaming (= Tô, Amei) (text)
Yu, Dawu (= U, Taibu) (illus.)
Jûmanbon no ya
(The hundred thousand arrows)
Tokyo: Iwanami shoten, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 4-00-110636-1
China/History 220-265 - General - Jealousy - Intrigue - Cleverness

This original Japanese picture book is an easily understandable retelling by a Chinese writer and Chinese illustrator of the 46th episode of the historical novel »The three kingdoms« (San-guo zhi yan-yi or San-kuo chih yen-i) by Luo Guanzhong (or Lo Kuan-chung) dating from the Ming dynasty. A famous general known for his cleverness must supply one hundred thousand arrows within ten days without being given any materials or laborers. Against all expectations he fulfills this devious task brilliantly by the third day. The visual interpretation of the text in the style of royal, scholastic Chinese painting is a feast for the eye. Extremely fine brush strokes, transparent colors and unusual proportions present the classical heroic period of ancient China in stunning picture compositions which satisfy both aesthetically and humorously. (9+)

15
Yamamoto, Yôko (text/illus.)
Okochan
(I, Okochan!)
Tokyo: Shogakukan, 1996. (2nd ed.). [32pp]
ISBN 4-09-727075-3
Individuality - Childhood memories - Parody

The young girl Okochan has a strong personality that just radiates with vitality. She acts in accordance with her own imagination, impulses and logic, causing her parents and grandparents such amazement that they are nearly bowled over time after time. These delightful episodes from the author and graphic artist's own childhood are rendered here in short sketches which parody the well-known Japanese children's song »Zôsan« (Little elephant) by Michio Mado (Hans Christian Andersen Prize winner) and Ikuma Dan. This is an unconventional autobiography that sparks the reader to laughter again and again. (5+)

16
Yumoto, Kazumi
Popura no aki
(A poplar tree in autumn)
Tokyo: Shinchosha, 1997. 218pp
(Shincho bunko Yu-6-2)
ISBN 4-10-131512-4
Old/Young - Friendship - Death - Letter-writing - Withdrawal - Fear

Seven-year old Chiaki struggles to deal with the death of her father, her mother's suffering, and a new home and school. Feeling quite at a loss herself, she becomes acquainted with their landlady, a very old woman who explains that she is collecting letters to the dead which she will personally deliver to the afterworld when she dies one day. Upon hearing this, Chiaki begins to write to her father and thus finds a way to free herself from her fear of death, from her grief, her inner withdrawal, and all her worries. Chiaki's strange but wonderous friendship with the old woman is told in a gentle, melancholy tone in flashbacks. (13+)

Republic of China (ROC)

(Romanization according to German norms)

17
Lai, Ma (text/illus.)
Wo biancheng yi zhi pen huo long le!
(I am a fiery dragon!)
Taibei: Guoyu Ribao (Kuo Yu Daily Newspaper),
1996. [24pp]
ISBN 957-751-164-3
Dragon - Fire - Tears
Bo-Tai is a mosquito who likes to sting irritable people and animals, infecting them a »fire-spewing disease«. One day he stings the sleeping dragon Ah Ku Li, who awakens and spews flames, turning his possessions, including his teddy bear and his food, to charcoal and nearly destroying his home. After he burns his neighbors and friends, no one else will come near him. Nothing he tries will extinguish the fire - a pool of water, a fire extinguisher, a refrigerator. Hungry and sad, he cries and his tears finally do what seemed impossible. Ah Ku Li laughs, knowing at last that tears and laughter are the best cure for his »disease.« (5+) ☼

18
Li, Tong
Shaonian longchuandui
(Youth. The dragonboat crew)
Taibei: Tianwei (Trump Publishing Company),
1993. 190pp
ISBN 957-8557-44-2
Taiwan - Festival - Quarrel
Every two years a dragon-boat competition between the upper and the lower villages is held on Double Dragon River. But when the eldest grandfathers of each village have a quarrel, it is cancelled. Believing that the dragon-god will appear on the first evening of the Lantern Festival, four teenagers sneak into the dragon-boat dockyard and discover Grandfather Huo-Jen, too proud to take back his angry words, praying to the dragon-god that the boat competition be reinstated. This humorous story reveals much of Taiwanese customs and the bonds of the villagers to their country. (10+) ◈

English Language

Africa

Egypt

19
Marston, Elsa (text)
El Guindi, Abdel Aziz (illus.)
Free as the desert wind
Cairo: Hoopoe Books, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 977-5325-66-8
Father/Son - Desert - Camel - Disobedience

With great reluctance his father allows twelve-year old Omar to join him on the long camel drive from Sudan to Egypt. Omar experiences the loneliness of the journey and the extremities of a sandstorm. Soon he befriends a young camel, who helps them find a desparately needed water well. Unable to sell the camel and save him from the slaughter house, Omar secretly sets the young camel free in the desert, but the loyal animal soon returns. Attractively illustrated with color-pencil drawings, this well-told story will enrich multicultural library collections. (8+) ✧

Kenya

20
Fulani, Dan (text)
Kirby, Patrick (illus.)
Janjo and Shika. Historic Adventures in Africa.
The battle for Mombasa (1696-1698)
Nairobi: Jacaranda Designs, 1995. 44pp
ISBN 9966-884-99-8
Mombasa/History 1696-1698 - Power - Rivalry - Monkey - Time travel

Kenya's coastal port of Mombasa was once a strategic site for the Portuguese traders along the Indian Ocean. Jealousy and rivalry among the local rulers and power struggles with the Arabs from the north and the Portuguese led to the destruction of Fort Jesus. To bring one historical episode to life, Fulani allows an African school boy and his pet monkey to time-slip and relive the dramatic siege. Many factual details are included in the story and in informative boxed inserts. Colorful, somewhat comic-caricaturist illustrations spice this engaging lesson in history with humor and visual action. (8+)

South Africa

☺ Special Mention

21
Beake, Lesley
Jakey <Proper name>
Cape Town: Tafelberg, 1997. 132pp
ISBN 0-624-03566-2
Death - Grief - Family violence - Friendship - Suicide attempt - South Africa/History 1994 - Race relations - Alzheimer's disease

After his beloved stepfather is victim of a random street murder, Jakey and his mother move to a middle-class neighborhood where his mother has become the housekeeper of an older widow who is beginning to suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Still in weak health from his grief, Jakey takes lessons at home from this warm-hearted, independent woman. And Jakey soon becomes friends with the lonely white boy next door, who is being mishandled by his unhappy father, and helps Hendrik run away from home. When this fails, Jakey's sensitivity helps to prevent Hendrik's suicide. This is a realistic story about tension, grief and unhappiness in several families, but there is also an undercurrent of hopefulness and joy at the personal and political level. The day of the first free elections in 1994 is a significant event in the narrative. Beake weaves a well-balanced story with several narrative threads and an interesting array of characters caught up in a rapidly changing society. (12+) ✧

22
Pinnock, Patricia Schonstein
Saturday in Africa. Living history through poetry
Cape Town: African Sun Press, 1996. 70pp
ISBN 1-874915-05-9
Poetry - South Africa/History - Everyday life

This collection of poems written in various styles and meters draws upon many aspects of life and memories in South Africa, focussing especially on the joyful anticipation of the new era beginning under Nelson Mandela's presidency. Many poems are accompanied by well-chosen, expressive black-and-white photographs taken from numerous sources. Unusual words and historical contexts are explained in endnotes. This is a very attractively produced volume which will enrich library collections. (10+)

23
Turkington, Nola (text)
Mathew, Gillian (illus.)
Matilda and Meggie <Proper names>
Cape Town: Human & Rousseau, 1997. 23pp
ISBN 0-7981-3514-X
School project - Role play - Egg - Parent/Child - Responsibility
Matilda's fourth grade class end-of-year project is learning how to take responsibility by caring for an egg for one week. Unlike many of her classmates, Matilda is quite fastidious, and learns quite a bit about the burdens of „child-rearing", but in a surprise turn of events she uses the egg to foil a supposed burglar. The humorous, easy-to-read tale in paperback format is complemented with very attractively stylized black-and-white pen-and-wash illustrations. (7+) ☼

Swaziland

24
Whitton, David
Neptune's children
Manzini: Macmillan Boleswa, 1997. 122pp
ISBN 0-7978-0829-9
Sailing - Adventure - Friendship - Family problems
When fourteen young adults from all around South Africa are chosen for a crew of a training ship sailing ship from Durban to Mauritius, they experience more than they had anticipated. Each must master an extensive range of nautical skills, and also learn to work as a team. Whitton focusses upon a number of individuals with different family backgrounds in this multicultural troupe, making the basic plot of an adventure story with modern-day problems and dreams come to life. (12+) ✧

Zimbabwe

25
Alumenda, Stephen (text)
Marita goes to school
Harare: Baobab, 1997. [20pp] With illus.
ISBN 1-7790-9000-5
School - Wish - Father/Daughter - Secret - Reward
Marita dreams of being allowed to attend school, but her father thinks it is a waste of time and money and fears that his daughter could grow up to be a misfit in their community. But when Marita is secretly tutored by the local teacher (a young woman who wears trousers!), she is able to help her father read an important letter. This is an affirmative story about a spunky modern African girl whom young readers can identify with. This paperback children's book is very attractively produced on sturdy paper and with lively black-and-white illustrations. (6+) ✧ ☼

26
Farrell, Patricia
Jessicah the mountain slayer
Harare: Zimbabwe Publishing House, 1995. 92pp (Excl. dist. by African Books Collective Ltd., Oxford)
ISBN 1-77901-095-8
Orphan - Grief - Dream - City life - Garbage dump - Friendship - School
Twelve-year old Jessicah must leave her village when her mother dies and go to live with the sister of her father, who deserted the family long ago. Though she is still inwardly grieving, she must work very hard for her foster parents and give up school. She runs away to Nairobi, where she experiences dangers but also friendship in the person of an old woman who becomes her mentor and protector. Living as a garbage-picker in the »wasteland«, her situation finally improves when a journalist becomes interested in the situation of the squatters. This well-told, inspirational story is carried by its appealing main characters. (10+) ✧

Asia and Oceania

Australia

27
Brian, Janeen (text)
Cox, David (illus.)
Leaves for Mr Walter
Hunters Hill: Margaret Hamilton, 1998. [32pp]
ISBN 0-947241-95-7
Old/Young - Neighbor - Tree - Friendship
Old Mr Walter keeps a very tidy yard inside his thick wooden fence, and the dropping leaves of the

gum tree in the yard of the vacant house next door make him very grumpy. This all changes when young Emilia and her parents move in. With her winsome, innocent ways, she soothes him by happily carting away the leaves, then gets him to oil her bike, and ultimately build her a tree house with the wood he had bought to reinforce his fence. The skilful slap-dash pen-and-wash pictures capture the emotions and enthusiastic mood of this charming, universally appealing story of intergenerational friendship. (4+)

☺ Special Mention

28
Carmody, Isobelle
Greylands
Ringwood: Penguin Books Australia, 1997. 174pp
ISBN 0-14-038749-8
Mother - Death - Grief - Brother/Sister - Love - Dreamworld - Symbolism - Aliciade
Greylands is the place where someone goes when they are sad or scared. That is the interpretation which Jack, the youthful author-protagonist of the story within a story, finds for himself and his sister at the end of his symbol-filled tale. After their emotionally ill mother suddenly dies, he works through his grief by writing a fictional story, sharing it at times with his sister. Emotionally deserted by their father, who has retreated into his own world of grief, the two teenagers struggle to come to terms with their mother's death in this very moving and illuminating story. Carmody skilfully employs literary devices to propel the narrative and captivate the reader. (12+)

29
Caswell, Brian (text)
Chiem, David Phu An (text)
Only the heart
St. Lucia: University of Queensland, 1997. 212pp
ISBN 0-7022-2927-X
Vietnam/Emigration - Australia/Immigration - Postwar trauma - Family - Escape - Diary
Though Caswell uses his characteristic style of alternating perspectives to expand the horizon of the narrative, the content of this fictional story with real-life background comes from Chiem, a Vietnam-born Australian filmmaker of Chinese descent. The four-generation family tree at the outset is useful in following the diary-like entries - in both first and third person voices - of two main protagonists, cousins, and several other characters in this saga which spans from 1977 to 1996. This is a very immediate, gripping story of survival and coping in the face of the abominations of war and its traumatic consequences. (14+) ✧

30
Crew, Gary (text)
Woolman, Steven (illus.)
Tagged
Flinders Park: Era, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 1-86374-292-1
Vietnam - War - Veteran - Friendship - Death - Memory
This artistically innovative graphic novel deals with the tragic effect of war. Ironically, it begins with a young boy phantasizing about the heroic aerial attack of a war pilot while he explores the ruins of a deserted factory. He comes upon an old man, a war veteran who has lost all hold on life, wallowing in the memories of his fallen buddy. Jimmy hears his tale and learns about the terrible price paid by combat soldiers. Visually the book resembles a graphic comic, though with more variety and creativity; the text is also more richly descriptive. (10+)

31
Lester, Alison (text/photos)
The quicksand pony
St. Leonards: Allen & Unwin, 1997. 162pp
ISBN 1-86373-931-9
Death - Disappearance - Single parent - Island - Pony - Robinsonade - Adventure
This is the first full-length children's book by a well-known picture story book author. An adventure story set in the bush, it weaves together the fascinating, but quite different tales of two child protagonists. Joe was taken to an uninhabited island as a baby by his grief-stricken, widowed mother and they live a secret Robinsonesque life until she dies, leaving him alone. When Biddy's horse is trapped in quicksand she is forced to abandon it, but later finds it had been rescued. Her search leads her to Joe and to his reintegration into the community. This is an unusual story that will appeal to many young readers. (10+)

32
Marsden, John
Prayer for the twenty-first century
Port Melbourne: Lothian, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 0-85091-814-6
Peace - Future

John Marsden is an internationally renown author of controversial, challenging novels for mature teenagers as well as humorous works for children. This beautifully designed picture book shows another dimension of his obvious interest in the growth and well-being of the next generation. In lyrical, partially rhymed verses he gives expression to heart-felt concerns about human civilization and nature. A fascinating diverse selection of artwork from photographs to modern paintings from museums in Australia, set off against a stylized background, illuminate the individual thoughts. (8+)

33
Morris, Jill (text)
Muir, Lindsay (illus.)
Green air
Maleny: Great Glider, 1996. [32pp]
ISBN 0-947304-30-4 (pb)
Australia - Wildlife - Frog - Instinct

Australia's gastric-brooding frog was discovered in a sub-tropical area of Queensland in 1974. By 1981, as the afterword of this informative picture story book reports, it had disappeared. Without any live frogs to photograph, this book makes use of a stunningly life-like alternative. Muir has created three-dimensional pictures of the frogs and their environment from glazed and kiln-fired clay. In a very attractive page design accompanied by a slightly oversized typeface text, the life and adventures of a frog named Silus is entertainingly told in such a way that could be read aloud to children of any age group, from four to twelve. (4+) ☼
(Shortlist, Crichton Award, 1996)

34
Winton, Tim (text)
Louise, Karen (illus.)
Blueback <Proper name>
Sydney: Pan Macmillan Australia, 1997. 151pp
ISBN 0-330-36038-8 (pb)
Mother/Son - Snorkel diving - Fish - Nature - Oceanography - Growing up

Abel grows up on a remote coast of Australia alone with his widowed mother. He loves their almost daily snorkel diving, whose abalone harvest gives them just enough to survive, and treasures his life-long relationship with a large pet-like blue groper. But Abel must leave this idyll for further schooling and his decision to become an oceanographer takes him far away for years, until he returns to his roots to establish a natural oceanwater preserve. This is a poetic story of growing up which spans decades of one individual's life, a captivating and unusal biographical narrative. (10+)

India

35
Agarwah, Deepa (text)
Guhathakurta, Ajanta (illus.)
The toy horse
New Delhi: Children's Book Trust, 1997. [16pp]
ISBN 81-7011-775-5
Toy - Imagination

This picture book describes a brief encounter between two small girls who covet each other's toys. Rami, a gypsy girl whose family makes a living by selling iron tools and decorative hand-sewn cloth horses by the roadside, decides to sew a horse of her own to play with. Hers is not as perfect as the others, but in her imagination she travels far on its back. One day another small girl insists on buying Rami's cute horse and no other. Rami tearfully agrees to sell it at her mother's insistence, but is rewarded then with the other girl's lovely modern doll in exchange. This is a charmingly illustrated story with universal appeal. (4+) ✧ ☼
(2nd prize, Read-aloud, Competition for Writers of Children's Books, CBT)

36
Ghosh, Subir (text)
Bansal, Richa (text)
Chakraborty, Ashim Ranjan (illus.)
The dream machine
New Delhi: Children's Book Trust, 1997. 101pp
ISBN 81-7011-778-X
Father/Son - Scientific invention - Conspiracy - Friendship - Adventure

The motherless fourteen-year old Shailesh returns home from his boarding school eager to enjoy summer holidays, only to find his workaholic scientist father completely preoccupied with an extraordinary breakthrough discovery - a machine which can convert dreams into visual images. And an international conspiracy of greedy scientists is hot on the tracks, hoping to claim the invention and the considerable rewards. Shailesh and his childhood girlfriend are suddenly caught up in a dramatic, dangerous adventure. This science fiction fantasy is a fast-paced narrative with two interesting youthful protagonists. (12+) (2nd prize, Science Fiction, Competition for Writers of Children's Books, CBT)

37
Sarabhai, Mrinalini (text)
Roy, Subir (illus.)
Stories of India
New Delhi: Children's Book Trust, 1996. 78pp
ISBN 81-7011-753-4
India/Tales - Creation - Buddha - Mahabharata - Panchatantra - Love - Trial

This collection of eleven tales from the rich storytelling tradition of India's heroic epics and religious legends is written in an accessible, easy-to-read style by one of India's foremost dancers and choreographers. Attractive watercolor illustrations throughout the book capture the highlights of the narratives. (5+) ✧

New Zealand

☺ Special Mention

38
Boock, Paula
Dare truth or promise
Dunedin: Longacre Press, 1997. 180pp
ISBN 1-877135-08-9
First love - Lesbian - Homosexuality - Mother/Daughter - Homophobia - Identity

Louie is a fast-talking, witty girl who likes acting and plans to be a lawyer. Willa is quieter, has a dog as a constant companion, likes fencing and hopes to become a chef. In two marvellous early scenes of the skilfully told narrative, which alternates, in the third person, between Louie and Willa, each personality is brilliantly captured. The ups and downs of their gradually acknowledged feelings - which give way to passionate romance - and the varying reactions of others are authentically portrayed. Not only does Boock depict each scene with much insight and vivid detail, she also brings in a large supporting cast of well-drawn characters - friends, family, schoolmates and working colleagues - to create a very realistic background. As in many relationships that break norms, there is a long painful separation as Louie copes with the negative reactions of her family and re-examines her feelings. Unlike earlier books about homosexuality in which anxiety and conflict prevail, here the joy of finding a kindred spirit is portrayed, making it evident that love and romance can take the same course regardless of the sex of the partners. (14+)

39
Buxton, Jane (text)
Newman, Penelope (illus.)
Donkey dust
Wellington: Mallinson Rendel, 1997. 144pp
ISBN 0-908783-16-7
Runaways - Donkey - Adventure - Parentage - Secret

When three children between fourteen and six years of age learn that their mother has left suddenly for Australia to help a sick aunt, they decide to set off to visit the father they have not seen in six years. Travelling in a cart pulled by their pet donkey they learn to deal with each other and fend for themselves on the 100 kilometer journey. Covertly followed and indirectly helped by a family friend, they arrive safely in the end and learn from their father the true circumstances of their parents' marriage and separation. Illustrated with attractive black-and-white sketches, this vividly told adventure story is a real page-turner. (+9)

40
Hill, David
Treasure deep
Wellington: Mallinson Rendel, 1997. 112pp
ISBN 0-908783-22-1
Friendship - Maori culture - Prejudice - Step-father - Betrayal
Glyn's best mate is a Maori, much to the dismay of his future stepfather, an omnipresent representative of the local police. During summer holidays Glyn and Api make two valuable archeological finds, over which Api's grandmother is quite excited. When she is then brutally beaten and robbed, the police first arrest an innocent Maori before discovering that the rich white young man who had slyly befriended Glyn and Api is the real culprit. The local flavor of New Zealand's people and social fabric adds to the reading pleasure of this richly textured adventure story, with its colorful characters and romantic subplots. (10+) ✧

41
Lasenby, Jack
Because we were the travellers
Dunedin: Longacre, 1997. 155pp
ISBN 1-877135-02-X
Survival - Old/Young - Mutual aid - Growing up
In an unnamed country a clan of people wander as nomads in a circular cycle through a rough, scorching landscape that can scarcely support them, governed by the rules of survival of the fittest. When the lame Ish's father is murdered by a rival and his protective older sister taken as booty, he has to survive outside the group, learning what he needs to for himself and an wise old woman he joins up with. This skilfully developed futuristic fantasy gives a realistic view of human society in primitive conditions and the maturation of a boy whose future course will be eagerly followed in the announced sequel. (12+)

Europe

Great Britain

42
Brown, Ruth
Baba <Proper name>
London: Andersen, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 0-86264-730-4
Siblings - Excursion - Courage
This simple episodic tale describing two brothers and two sisters taking a walk across the fields is told in the first person by the oldest sister. The first half is fraught with tension because the youngest child is being a „cry-baby", frightened and unable to climb fences and jump streams like the older ones can. But when her comfort blanket becomes completely unravelled, she surprises them all by running the whole distance back alone to gather the wool in a skein. In her unmistakeable, sensitve and painterly style, Brown captures the shifting emotions with the perfect choice of perspective and an eye for details in the natural surroundings. (4+)

☺ Special Mention

43
Browne, Anthony (illus.)
Willy the dreamer
London: Walker, 1997. [24pp]
ISBN 0-7445-4972-8
Dream - Imagination - Art history - Popular culture
With his patterned vest, green corduroy trousers and hair parted down the center, Willy has acquired the quality of instant recognition. His mild-mannered way of meeting all the challenges of this world has a sense of universality. Now taking a different tack, Browne offers no narrative but takes a visual journey through Willy's surrealist dreamworld. It is filled, of course, with the omnipresent banana, but also with allusions to familiar literary works and cultural heroes, and spiced with visual jokes. Browne pays hommage to famous artists from Dalí to Sendak, giving children a first taste of art they will recognize again. (5+)

44
Doherty, Berlie (text)
Bailey, Siân (illus.)
Daughter of the sea
London: Hamish Hamilton, 1996. 115pp
ISBN 0-241-13614-8
(USA ed. New York: DK, 1997)
Sea/Legend - Selkie - Seal - Island - Fishing - Childless couple - Adoption

This is an absorbing, atmospheric tale of an older childless fisher couple who adopts a baby found on the shoreline on a stormy night. It is also a frame story in which numerous sea legends dealing with the relationship of man and seals are embedded. The well-drawn characters of this tight-knit fishing community on a remote windy island come alive in Doherty's narrative. One imagines the smells and sounds, and feels the emotional pull of the now teenaged selkie child toward her own people, setting the mood for the suspenseful climax. (10+)

45
Dowswell, Paul (text)
Tomlins, Karen (illus.)
The Roman Record
London: Usborne, 1997. 32pp
ISBN 0-7460-2753-2
Rome/History 753 B.C.- 500 A.D. - Newspaper

Read all about it! Buy the »Roman Record« and you, reader, can learn everything you always wanted to know about the trials and tribulations of life as a slave - if you are so dumb - or as a senator - thank your favorite goddess - in Roman times. Find out all about those battles and conquests! Read about the fall of Rome! Ladies, check out the latest kitchen facilities and newly arrived shipments of jewelry! Find out how predictions are made! Page after page of the latest news, concisely laid-out facts and analyses. Colorful mosaics and paintings from-on-the scene reporters make your reading pleasure complete. (10+)

46
Moore, Robin (text)
Ambrus, Victor (illus.)
My life with the Indians. The story of Mary Jemison
London: Franklin Watts, 1997. 32pp
ISBN 0-7496-2363-2
North America/Indians - Abduction - Adoption - Cultural conflict

The biography of Mary Jemison, based on the account she told at the age of 80 in 1823, spans a turbulent period of North American history. The sole survivor of an Indian raid on her home in Pennsylvania - a result of the French and British war for territory - she was adopted by another tribe, married twice and mother of a large family. She choose to remain with her Indian family and friends, rather than return to a bigotted white civilization, but still suffered many family sorrows through the changing times. Masterly pen-and-wash illustrations adorn this fascinating documentation, followed by factual information in an appendix. (8+) ✧

47
Nimmo, Jenny (reteller)
Jones, Jac (illus.)
Branwen <Proper name>
Llandysul: Pont Books/Gomer, 1997. [32pp]
(Legends from Wales)
ISBN 1-85902-322-3
Wales/Legend - Ireland - Alliance - Marriage - Intrigue - Revenge

In this tragic tale from the Mabinogi, the Welsh heroic saga, a wise and mighty king of Britain gives his lovely sister Branwen in marriage to the king of Ireland, but the wrath of their half-brother, Efnisien, and the jealousy of the Irish court breaks the young couple's happiness. The exigencies of power lead to the bloody war between the two armies, and to many deaths, including the British king, the rueful Efnisien, Branwen's child, and broken-hearted Branwen - the high price of family loyalty. The readable telling of this tale is accompanied by beautiful watercolor illustrations which convey the emotions and dramatic action of the tale. (8+)

48
Tomlinson, Theresa
Dancing through the shadows
London: Julia MacRae, 1997. 120pp
ISBN 1-85681-713-X
(US ed.: New York, DK, 1997)
Mother/Daughter - Breast cancer - School - Dance - Well - Legend

A school girl learns to deal with the fears and uncertainties of her mother's breast cancer operation and her moodiness during the subsequent chemotherapy. She becomes absorbed in helping a teacher with the renovation of an ancient well near her school and performing modern dance routines with a group of school mates. The events of everyday life in a normal family and suburban neighborhood setting make an enjoyable backdrop for the development of the likeable main character. This is a heartwarming family story with an authentic ring. (10+)

Ireland

49
Dunbar, Robert (ed.)
Enchanted journeys. Fifty years of Irish writing for children
Dublin: O'Brien, 1997. 192pp
ISBN 0-86278-518-9
Ireland/Youth literature/Anthology

Taking as motto for this anthology that »all good stories for children offer the prospect of 'enchanted journeys', ...voyages of discovery«, Ireland's leading children's literature expert, Robert Dunbar, has selected 17 authors whose works represent the breadth and diversity of Irish children's literature. The volume contains excerpts from each story, arranged in reverse chronological order, and range from Conlon-McKenna (1996) back to Conor O'Brien (1941). Dunbar also provides a detailed biographical sketch about each of the authors. (10+)

50
O'Sullivan, Mark
White lies
Dublin: Wolfhound, 1997. 157pp
ISBN 0-86327-592-3
Adoption - Secret - Parent/Child - Expectations - Friendship

An adopted black Irish teenager begins to doubt the details of her adoption in Africa, when she finds a photograph of herself as a baby, surrounded by people she doesn't know. Sure that her (white) parents have lied, she secretly searches for her natural mother and in the end uncovers several unexpected truths. Parallel to her own identity quest, her boyfriend from a broken, tragedy-filled family, and her helpful, well-to-do school friend are also struggling with half-truths and self-delusions in their families. O'Sullivan skilfully develops several suspenseful sub-plots and character portraits that reflect the complex realities of modern youth. (14+)

☺ Special Mention

51
Parkinson, Siobhán
Four kids, three cats, two cows, one witch (maybe)
Dublin: O'Brien, 1997. 192pp
ISBN 0-86278-515-4
Island - Friendship - Recluse - Adventure

The winner of Ireland's annual Bisto Award for Children's Literature in 1996 gives us another highly readable story about lively, appealing young adults who are caught in the throes of growing up, gradually gaining self-confidence and valuable experience along the way to adulthood. During summer holidays two girls and two boys are thrown together, partially by chance, and embark on an adventure which leads them to an island. There they make the acquaintance of an eccentric recluse and learn to see life with different eyes. One special part of their adventure story involves the highly revealing »fairy tales« each one must make up and tell to the others, stories within a story. In this way Parkinson can introduce tension and conflicts with which any person could be faced with, while still portraying teenagers whose lives are fairly »normal«, like those of many of her readers. (12+)

North America

Canada

52
Fitch, Sheree (text)
Labrosse, Darcia (illus.)
If you could wear my sneakers
Toronto: Doubleday, 1997. 32pp
ISBN 0-3-85-25597-7
Children's Rights - Poetry

In fifteen witty, lively poems and full page backdrop illustrations, Fitch and Labrosse draw connections to the content and spirit of some of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child. One of Canada's leading poets, Fitch writes in a melodic, rhythmic way with a humor that embodies the wonderfully childlike - and surely Fitch's own - perspective on life. Not in the least pedagogical, the poems have animal protagonists and behave in a way that corresponds to a basic principle of the convention. At the close of the book the reader is invited to match the poem with the appropriate »right«. (6+) ☼

53
Funston, Sylvia (text)
Stevens, Pat (illus.)
Animal smarts. The secret life of animals
Toronto: Owl Books/Greey de Pencier, 1997. 48pp
ISBN 1-895688-66-3
Animal - Intelligence - Scientific research

This information book offers a wealth of information which describes to what extent animals actively use their brains, i.e. learn, rather than rely on inborn instinct. Each double-page spread discusses an aspect of the topic and gives three to five examples and explanations of phenomena that scientists have observed and drawn conclusions from. Since it is repeatedly made clear that our knowledge is still preliminary, young readers with an inclination toward science will be fascinated by still the open questions. The very attractive layout with different typography and styles of illustration make the book highly appealing. (12+)

54
Hughes, Monica
The seven magpies
Toronto: HarperCollins, 1996. 148pp
ISBN 0-00-224549-3
Scotland/World War II - Boarding school - Ostracism - Soldier - Deserter - Celtic mythology

As a newcomer in a girls' boarding school in Scotland in 1939, 14-year old Maureen is at first ostracised and becomes interested in Celtic legends. But once she is admitted to a secret club she must learn how to assert herself and also find her place in the group. When she accidentally discovers the hiding place of her neighbor's son, an army deserter, she faces a real dilemma. In both cases she gains maturity by wrestling with problems of social and moral conduct. The credible narrative is rich in characterization and background. (12+)
(Shortlisted for 1997 Geoffrey Bilson Award For Historical Fiction For Young People)

55
Zeman, Ludmila (text/illus.)
The first red maple leaf
Toronto: Tundra Books, 1997. [24pp]
ISBN 0-88776-372-3
Canada - Winter - Wind - Seasons - Tree leaf - Modern folktale

The well-known emblem of Canada, the red maple leaf, is finally given a history by this recent immigrant artist. She draws upon motifs of ancient folklore - talking animals, animals and trees helping mankind, merciless natural forces - to create a memorable story about the protective function of the leaves and the coming of summer to Canada. Using somber, wintry colors that convey the mood of a northern climate, Zeman divides some full-page spreads into smaller frames to capture the dramatic events of the tale. (5+)

56
Zhang, Song Nan (text/illus.)
Cowboy on the steppes
Toronto: Tundra Books, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 0-88776-410-X
Mongolia - China/History 1968-1969 - Herdsman

As a part of China's re-education program during the Cultural Revolution, the author's brother, a student in Beijing, was sent to Inner Mongolia. The diary of his year within a commune of nomadic herdsmen is the basis for this illustrated children's book. The diary entries describe Yi Nan Zhang's gradual assimilation into the clan, his learning how to care for livestock, and the hard way of life on Mongolia's steppes. They also reveal something of the growth of a young man (now a journalist in Beijing) taken far away from his own world. The stunning color pencil drawings enhance the appeal of his unusual experiences (8+) ✧

USA

57

Alexander, Lloyd

The iron ring

New York: Dutton, 1997. 283pp

ISBN 0-525-45597-3

King - Debt - Quest - Good/Evil - Talking animals - Growing up - Indian/Folktale - Adventure

When a young king, Tamar, loses everything he owns in a dice game, an iron ring, symbol of his bondage appears on his finger and he must set off for the distant kingdom of his victor. In the course of his quest, his entourage grows to include talking animals and characters from different castes. Together they fight battles and savour happy moments together. The narrative is filled with Indian folktales and driven along by Tamar's adherence to a code of honor, dharma. At the end of his epic adventure, he has learned much about life and honor. Alexander is a master storyteller who entertains and enlightens his reader with all the literary techniques of good fantasy. (11+) ✧

☺ Special Mention

58

Cowan, Catherine (transl./reteller)

Paz, Octavio (story)

Buehner, Mark (illus.)

My life with the wave

New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard/Morrow, 1997. [32pp]

ISBN 0-688-12660-X

Ocean wave - Friendship

This deliciously absurd tale by the Nobel Prize winner, Octavio Paz, is beautifully rendered in full-page color paintings, which speaks to the fantasy in all of us. On his first trip to the seashore, the boy narrator is befriended by a small but most playful wave. The wave cajoles the boy's father into taking her home with them and at first all goes well. But when the wave's wild moods and ghastly nightmares become unmanageable, they have to return her to the ocean. Buehner's illustrations capture the nuances of this poetic, yet straight forward text and expands on them exquisitely with many ironical touches.
A delightful gem to be reread many times. (4+)

59

Gallo, Donald R. (ed.)

No easy answers. Short stories about teenagers making tough choices

New York: Delacorte, 1997. 323pp

ISBN 0-385-32290-9

Conflict - Moral choice - Guilt - Atonement - Growing up

This anthology contains sixteen short stories, written for this collection, by some of the leading writers for young adult in the U.S. and Canada. As the title makes clear, each of the protagonists is faced with a choice between alternative actions. Often the difficulties lie in the conflict between ambition or fulfillment of a dream and the reality of hurting other people. The situations they find themselves in involve drugs, pregnancy, blackmail, handicapped victims, or revenge. At the end of each short story, a two-page biographical sketch lets the reader know what other books by the author are available. (12+)

60

Hausherr, Rosmarie (text/photos)

Celebrating families

New York: Scholastic, 1997. [32pp]

ISBN 0-590-48937-2

Family - Adoption - Divorce - Single parent

Many varieties of family structure are presented here in fourteen double-spread pages. Each portrait includes a photo of a child with the members of his or her family and one of a typical favorite activity - whether gardening, repairing a bicycle, visiting Dad in prison, or playing games on the computer with an older foster brother. Short, easy-to-read descriptions reveal the many ways families may be formed (including bi-racial and same gender parents) and formed again after change (divorce, separation, adoption). (7+) ✧

61
Hearne, Betsy (text)
Andersen, Bethanne (illus.)
Seven brave women
New York: Greenwillow, 1997. [24pp]
ISBN 0-688-14502-7
Genealogy - Biography - Courage

With the intention of showing that history is also »her« story and our common history is not necessarily one of war and aggression, this picture-book biography gives brief portraits of seven women ancestors, telling what made each of their lives remarkable and memorable. This short first-person chronicle of one woman's family history, which is also set in a wider context of world events that are mentioned in passing, makes a lasting impression. The naive-abstract double-page oil paintings capture the main elements of each life and the times. (5+) ☼

62
Henkes, Kevin
Sun & Spoon
New York: Greenwillow, 1997. 135pp
ISBN 0-688-15232-5
Grandmother - Death - Grandfather - Bereavement - Family life

Two months after his grandmother's death, Spoon (his family nickname) realizes that he needs to find a special memento to remember her by. This gentle story of his search is set against the background of warm, caring relationships. But even these need to be cultivated, like the family garden, and the grief of both grandson and grandfather lead them to a new understanding. Henkes has a remarkable talent for depicting the nuances of his subject in dialogues, inner reflections that ring true, and simple situations weighty with meaning. His natural, crafted prose seems to flow effortlessly. (9+)

63
Koller, Jackie French (text)
Lewin, Betsy (illus.)
No such thing
Honesdale: Boyds Mills, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 1-56397-490-8
Bedtime - Monster - Fear

When a little boy moves into an old house he has trouble falling asleep because of the monsters living under it. In this delightful twist on a familiar plot, both little Howard and the charming little green monster exasperate their mothers with their fears until they finally find the courage to talk to each other and discover neither wants to harm the other. In an open-end conclusion they call out to their mothers once again - and the reader must guess what will happen. Full page watercolors with bold black contour strokes capture the universal child's nighttime fears with a dose of humor. (4+)

64
Lelooska, Chief (reteller/illus.)
Normandin, Christine (ed.)
Echoes of the elders. The stories and paintings of Chief Lelooska
New York: Dorling Kindersley (DK) in assoc. with Callaway Editions 1997. 38pp
ISBN 0-7894-2455-X
Kwakiutl/Tales - North America/Northwest coast - Animals/Myths

This beautifully designed oversized book of five animal tales is a tribute to the decades of oral storytelling and intensive efforts to preserve the Northwest Coast Indian culture by Chief Lelooska, a descendent of the Cherokee who was adopted by the Southern Kwakiutl tribe. The large two-dimensional ornamental renderings of the animal protagonists enhance the lengthy, didactic but entertaining stories. A compact disc included with the book gives proof of the famous storytelling powers of Chief Lelooska, who died in 1996. (8+) ✧

65
Myers, Walter Dean (text)
Myers, Christopher (illus.)
Harlem
New York: Scholastic, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 0-590-54340-7
Harlem - African-Americans

This stunning picture book is a visual and lyrical hymn to the persistent hopes and dreams of African-Americans living in Harlem, that famous section of New York City. Harlem was an important gathering point where jazz and Black culture began to blossom in the early part of the 20th century. Its pulsating vitality is given bold expression in the assembled multi-media collages by the artist son of Walter Dean Myers, the well-known young adult writer who grew up in Harlem. (6+) ✧
(Caldecott Honor Book 1998)

66
O'Connor, Barbara
Beethoven in Paradise
New York: Frances Foster/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997. 153pp
ISBN 0-374-30666-4
Father/Son - Grandmother - Music - Expectations - Conflict - Friendship - Identity

Twelve-year old Martin lives with his parents in a trailer park name Paradise. His permanently unhappy father has placed all his hopes in Martin becoming a „normal" boy he can be proud of. But Martin is a loner whose real natural talent lies in music. His grandmother and a neighbor encourage him in different ways to develop himself, and after numerous angry scenes and much anguish, he is finally able to stand up to his father. O'Connor captures the sweltering atmosphere of this close, lower-class setting and depicts the hopes and limitations of the main protagonists with great sensitivity. (10+)

67
Pinkney, Andrea Davis (text)
Pinkney, Brian (illus.)
Duke Ellington
New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1998. [32pp]
ISBN 0-7868-2150-7
Ellington, Duke - Jazz - African-Americans

The picture book biography of the world's most famous jazz pianist, band leader and composer, Duke Ellington (1899-1974), is told succinctly for children in an upbeat contemporary vernacular with African-American idioms that capture the natural swing, wit and esprit of modern times. The musical rhythm of the text is reflected and extended in the ideally suited, brightly colored two-page spreads done in Brian Pinkney's hallmark scratchboard paintings. The reader is offered factual information but may also feel inspired to hear and learn more about this musical genius and about jazz. (6+) ✧

✧ books whose content is found contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples

○ books with easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics

Austria

68
Blazejovsky, Maria (text/illus.)
Emma Pippifilippi
<Proper name>
Wien: Jungbrunnen, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 3-7026-5687-1
Seagull - Name - Outsider - Identity - Adventure - Homecoming

The moon, the wind, the rain drops, a monkey, and a raven become friends with the strong-willed seagull Pippifilippi during her journey around the world which she is taking because she doesn't want to be named just Emma, like all the other seagulls. She insists on having her own name and leading her own life. The result is that ever since then each seagull picks out a second, secret name that fits no one else. This is a book which encourages independence within the social group. (5+) ☺

☺ Special Mention

69
Herfurtner, Rudolf (text)
Boratyński, Antoni (illus.)
Waldkinder
(Forest children)
Mödling: St. Gabriel, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 3-85264-544-1
Garden - Captivity - Escape - Cultural contact - Community

One day a sheltered child finds, quite literally, a »hole in the wall« of his untouched world. Outside the wall he finds children who have had completely different experiences. Yet they find a common language. Now they all return to the well-tended garden, but are no longer in captivity. This is a book about growing up and becoming independent which makes use of an unusual visual language. Until unity is created, it is monstrous shapes that encounter each other. Once they have formed a community the little gnomes become elves. (8+) ☺

70
Janisch, Heinz (text)
Oberdieck, Bernhard (illus.)
Sarah und der Wundervogel
(Sarah and the magic bird)
Wien: Betz, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 3-219-10644-7
Bird - Miracle - Captivity - Help - Rescue

The splendid magic bird has lost its colors and its magic powers during captivity. A little girl brings life back to him through her questions. It tells her all about freedom. With each tale one of the ropes that is holding it falls away and one day he has disappeared from its cage. Tired, earthy colors depict its captivity, light colors stand for life and freedom. The reader may be reminded of the Andersen tale of the Emperor's Nightingale, but fortunately this story ends happily. (6+)

71
Reinl, Edda (text/illus.)
Adam der Gaukler
(Adam the juggler)
Innsbruck: Tyrolia, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 3-7022-2079-8
Juggler - Monastery - Music - Dance - Prayer

The Adam from the legend »The juggler and the good Lord« performs his colorful stunts for little children until the snow comes and he finds shelter in a monastery. All the colors there are in the monotone brown of the monks' habit, until one night Adam cannot stand it any longer. He stands at the chapel altar and plays his violin for the good Lord. All the monks come running and are amazed at the intensity with which he plays. It is not known whether the dear Lord ever punished Adam for this caper. (6+) ☺

72
Treiber, Jutta (text)
Blazejovsky, Maria (illus.)
O, sagt der Ohrwurm. Ein Anti-Lärm-Bilderbuch
(Oh, said the noisy-worm. An anti-noise book)
Wien: Betz, 1997. [36pp]
ISBN 3-219-10669-2
City life - Noise - Responsibility

The noisy-worm comes out of the radio and makes itself at home in a the human ear. It lives from noise. The fatter he has gotten, the louder things are, until noise is ready to explode. Now everyone is called upon to take responsiblity. People must learn again to be still. Then the noisy dragon-worm becomes smaller and quite humble. And it is easier to take care of him. This more and more urgent problem is taken up in an easy and understandable manner. The illustrations change from earthy, still colors to bombastic, loud tones, emphasizing the message of the text. (6+)

73
Walbrecker, Dirk (text)
Poppel, Hans (illus.)
Bennys Hut
(Benny's hat)
Wien: Betz, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 3-219-10668-4
Hat - Loneliness - Metamorphosis - Play
Papa's hat and papa's little boy have one thing in common - loneliness. With a little fantasy, this becomes a wonderful day. The hat transforms itself into a football, a drinking cup, a magical machine and much more. Until the little boy lays down his head in the evening and falls asleep. At first the overtaxed hat resists such impertinence, but then after all Papa can get himself a new headpiece. The pictures of peacefulness and dynamic movement alternate according to the game and the hat's function. (5+) ✪

Germany

74
Auer, Martin (text)
Luetke, Joachim (illus.)
Der dreckige Prinz
(The filthy prince)
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 3-522-43232-1
Cleanliness - Education - Identity - Personality change - Surveillance - Perfection
The Queen always insists that her son stay always immaculately clean. When the prince becomes king, he only dares to wallow in filth at night in his dreams. But during the day he proclaims that the entire kingdom is to be kept clean, and he enforces it strictly. This is a cautionary tale directed against perfectionism, in which children's dreams collide with the exaggerated demands of adults. The illustrations contain a wide range of techniques of style that manage to overrule one another, just as, analogously, children's desires are constantly being overruled by the forces surrounding them. (8+) ✪

75
Bärsch, Thomas (text)
Ticha, Hans (illus.)
Der Streik der Buchstaben
(The alphabet goes on strike)
Leipzig: Faber & Faber, 1996. 62pp
(Die Sisyphosse)
ISBN 3-928660-68-3
Letter <alphabet> - Strike - Orthography
The letters of the alphabet feel abused and make plans for a total strike. Suddenly there is not an E, G, T or P to be found anywhere. Not even in the minds of the people, who can no longer read or write anything. Chaos takes over. New auxiliary rules of spelling are established. But more and more letters disappear, and nothing works any longer.This is largely a humorous persiflage of the current wrangling over the introduction of new orthography rules in German-speaking countries. Black-and-white vignettes of letters try to give a proper picture. The book is one of the series »Die Sisyphosse« with a compact format and attractive book design. (8+) ✪

76
Berner, Rotraut Susanne (text/illus.)
Hase Hase! Freundschaft auf acht Pfoten
(Hare Hare! Friendship on eight paws)
Reinbek: Rowohlt, 1997. 75pp
(rororo Rotfuchs; 20866)
ISBN 3-499-20866-0
Family - Enemy - Play - Danger - Reconciliation - Friendship
Hare Hare and Hugo Dog are not allowed to play with one another. So they secretly participate in a running contest with all the other village (animal) children, but get caught in a sudden downpour and lose their way completely. Then when they save Marie Pig from the flood, they become the joint winners of the first prize - a pair of roller skates (for two). Now all their problems are solved - how and why to be friends. Simple, stunning colored pencil drawings in which yellow, blue and green

dominate, printed on coarse paper, arouse the readers' interest in looking and turning one page after the other. (4+)

77
Boie, Kirsten (text)
Bauer, Jutta (illus.)
Man darf mit dem Glück nicht drängelig sein
(One must not be too pushy with one's luck)
Hamburg: Oetinger, 1997. 173pp
ISBN 3-7891-3114-8
Divorce - School holidays - Travel - Step-children - Family

During their family vacation in Sweden, Linnea, the youngest of three children doesn't call her divorced father »Papa« but »Mr. Schulze«; after all, his presence on this vacation trip is not exactly voluntary. And then Friedrich, the son of his new girlfriend, also appears on the scene. On top of that they are about to get a half-sister or half-brother, although they think Papa already has enough children. But the positive side of all that chaos finally helps to win the day. This highly enjoyable book works against the neurotic tendencies in the children's coping with their current problems by use of much humor and wit. The graphic design exudes with a high-spirited holiday mood. (8+)

78
Dische, Irene
Zwischen zwei Scheiben Glück
(Between two slices of happiness)
München: Hanser, 1997. 82pp
ISBN 3-446-19080-5
Germany/History 1938-1945 - Persecution of the Jews - Hungary

Peter has spent the greater part of his childhood in Hungary with his grandfather, a strict elderly gentlemen, who is just the opposite of Laszlo, Peter's father, a diplomat on service in war-time Berlin. Only later does Peter discover that the letters he got regularly from his father were written by his grandfather, in order to conceal the death of his father. This enchanting book gives much space to joyful moments and to sad moments. It shows a child's attempts to look upon world events so as to make them fit into his own life. The author handles very complicated subjects seemingly without effort, often humorously, and tragic moments with a dash of gentle irony. (8+) ✧ ☼

79
Enzensberger, Hans Magnus (text)
Berner, Rotraut Susanne (illus.)
Der Zahlenteufel. Ein Kopfkissenbuch für alle, die Angst vor Mathematik haben
(The number devil. A pillow book for everyone who is afraid of mathematics)
München: Hanser, 1997. 263pp
ISBN 3-446-18900-9
Dream - Mathemathics - Magic - Fun

One of Robert's mostly unpleasant dreams deals simply with numbers and the devil that goes with them. The reader will become increasingly engrossed in Robert's nightly adventures with numbers, especially on account of the elaborate color scheme used to liven up the rows of examples, the illustrations and resourcefulness of both Robert and the Number Devil. The first chapters will even be of interest to second graders; progress can continue then gradually, with the support of an interested adult. (8+)

80
Fried, Amelie (text)
Gleich, Jacky (illus.)
Hat Opa einen Anzug an?
(Does Grandpa have a suit on?)
München: Hanser, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 3-446-19076-7
Grandfather - Death - Bereavement - Language

A young boy experiences the death of his grandfather and his own emotions. The narrative focuses on the typical verbal responses of adults and the difficulties this causes for a young child. From the point of view of both aesthetics and content an impressive book, it nonetheless leaves some questions open. It is difficult to know whether the illustrations match the text from a child's point of view, and whether both text and pictures give an adequate representation of the feelings and experiences of a child taking leave of a deceased loved one. Will a child identify with this portrayal? The actual target readership may well be older than the three or four-year old protagonist. (12+)

81
Geve, Thomas [pseudonym] (text)
Es gibt hier keine Kinder
(There are no children here)
Göttingen: Wallstein, 1997. 151pp
ISBN 3-89244-220-7
Drawing - Auschwitz - Childhood memories
Thomas Geve was sent to Auschwitz at the age of thirteen and during the liberation of the camp by the U.S. Army in 1945 he prepared documentary sketches of everyday life at the concentration camp. Published here for the first time, these drawings give substance to the horrors and the desolateness in which the boy had been living for two endless years of captivity. The accompanying text in German, English and Hebrew should appeal to a wide audience and deserves the attention of anyone interested in human rights issues. (14+)

82
Hacks, Peter (text)
Häntsch, Uwe (illus.)
Prinz Telemach und sein Lehrer Mentor
(Prince Telemachus and his teacher Mentor)
Berlin: Eulenspiegel Verlag, 1997. 124pp
ISBN 3-359-00885-5
Homer - Odyssey - Telemachus - Didactics
Peter Hacks retells Homer's Odyssey for children. The pert young prince Telemachus seeks out a teacher who can teach him how to find his father, in order to bring Odysseus back to his rightful kingdom, now overrun with upstarts, and to his family. The masked goddess Minerva (gods are almighty, teachers are all-powerful, therefore teachers are gods?) takes up his offer and in the form of a very unconventional pedagogue by the name of Mentor she leads the prince to success and his father back home. With expertise and irony, in relative clauses and allusions, the Greek legend of gods and heroes is given a new meaning. With a brilliant, easy flowing style, and an irreverence toward the crusty old (humanistic) teachers and teaching methods, each sentence and chapter of this text makes for a true reading pleasure. (10+)

83
Hänel, Wolfram
Giftiges Gold oder Großvaters Esel
(Poison gold or Grandfather's donkey)
Weinheim: Anrich, 1997. 160pp
ISBN 3-80106-319-9
Ireland - Gold - Mining - Ecology - Tourism
Gold is discovered on a small island off the coast of Ireland. The island's inhabitants are able to prevent the exploitation of the mine, which would have led to the pollution of the sea with environmental poisons. The children of the island, who fear for the future of their home, play an important role. With trickery and the help of Grandfather's donkey, they succeed in averting the danger. With humor and a sense of place, the author describes how an unspoiled landscape is saved from being destroyed by profit-seekers. (8+)

84
Heidelbach, Nikolaus (text/illus.)
Ein Buch für Bruno
(A book for Bruno)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 3-407-79194-1
Book - Adventure - Trickery - Reading - Friendship
Ulla Herz, an enthusiastic fan of books, falls in love with Bruno Würfel, a book-hater. Though he prefers things that go crack-bang-slam, one day she is cunning enough to get him to experience a book as an »event« in its own right. And he wants more. How the two of them start with the parental library and swing (wordlessly) on a bookmark from adventure to adventure, page after page, is another piece of Heidelbach creativity. Here he takes a stand on reading for fun, but one thoroughly devoid of pedagogical undertones. (6+) ✧ ☼

85
Holub, Josef
Lausige Zeiten
(Lousy times)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1997. 244pp
ISBN 3-407-79743-5
Bohemia - Germany/History 1938-1945 - School - Discipline - Humanity
A teenager in Bohemia during World War Two, Josef is sent to a teacher training institute whose basic tenents are unconditional obedience and

discipline. The conflicts and skurmishes the young man experiences in this misanthropic institute, but also the positive encounters and experiences of those years make up the atmosphere of this weighty book. It bears witness to one man's mental resistance against active violence and structural force; a convincing testimony not only in a literary sense but by means of its wisdom and humanity. (10+)

86
Jandl, Ernst (text)
Junge, Norman (illus.)
Fünfter sein
(To be fifth)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1997. [36pp]
ISBN 3-407-79105-X
Doctor - Waiting room - Children's poetry
The doctor's waiting room is filled with all kinds of busted characters: Penguin, Duck, Teddy and Tin Frog. The fifth patient, a little Pinocchio, is suffering from a broken nose. The door has to open and close four times before it is the last one's turn, along with Ernst Jandl, to say »morning doctor.« During the long wait, the injured reveal only minimal mimical changes in each of the nearly identical pictures - a perfect interpretation of the anxiety of each (small) patient in a doctor's waiting room. An artful, well-composed book designed for very close listening and looking. (4+) ○

87
Lewin, Waltraut
Jenseits des Meeres die Freiheit
(Beyond the sea of freedom)
Ravensburg: Ravensburger Buchverlag, 1997. 221pp
(Ravensburger junge Reihe)
ISBN 3-473-35177-6
Spain/History 1492 - Persecution of the Jews - Escape - Seafaring - Christopher Columbus
In the aftermath of the pogroms against the Sephardhic Jews in Spain, the young Jewish girl, Esther, signs up incognito as a ship's boy with Christopher Columbus in 1492. Risking the double dangers of being discovered a Jew and a woman, Esther hopes to gain freedom in the New World as Columbus' page boy. But the terror and horrifying images of the pogrom continue to haunt her. The author relates the fascinating story of life in the cramped spaces of a sailing ship, the coarse camaraderie of the men, and the absolute hierarchical chain of power and command. (12+) ✧

88
Lind, Hera (text)
Marcks, Marie (illus.)
Der Tag, an dem ich Papa war
(The day I was Papa)
Frankfurt (Main): Fischer Taschenbuchverlag, 1997. 131pp
(Fischer-Schatzinsel)
ISBN 3-596-85020-7
Father/Son - Role reversal
Fridolin and Papa change places for one day and manage to steer their respective worlds pretty far off course. Fridolin, in the shape of Papa, takes business partners to the playground and to McDonald's, while Papa, with Fridolin's appearance, goes to a café instead of to school. But the magic only lasts one day. Unconcerned with logic or realism, the author allows the reader to take subversive pleasure in the improbable father-and-son conspiracy. (8+) ○

89
Maar, Paul (text)
Ballhaus, Verena (illus.)
Lesezauber. Eine Fibel mit Reimen und Geschichten
(Reading magic. A reader with rhymes and stories)
Berlin: Volk und Wissen, 1997. 115pp
ISBN 3-06-100191-3
Alphabet - First reader - Children's poetry - Play
In a compendium of pictures, letters and first words, short poems, and longer texts the beginning reader is gradually introduced to the written word and reading matter in this most pleasurable beginning reader. Breaks for play are worked into the text. Using lots of humor and graphics, the authors also provide a basic stock of knowledge about everyday life in Germany and elsewhere. Visual citations from widely known picture books and children's books (including those of the author) produce a larger (literary) context for the young reader. All in all this is a »school book« for happy learning. (5+) ○

90
Meißner-Johannknecht, Doris (text)
Plöger, Juliane (illus.)
Die Geschichte vom Hasen
(The story of Hare)
Düsseldorf: Patmos, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 3-491-37360-3
Hare - Everyday life - Stress - Relaxation - Identity

A hare who always feels unnerved, terrified and on the run from dangers takes stock of his life: he doesn't want to run, to flee and be constantly on guard any more, just to save his own fur. He stretches out all four legs and simply lies down in the warm sun for a nap. And in his head he hears the echos of the hunters' steps and the buzzing of their machines; and the warnings of his brothers and sisters. But there is one sound he had never heard before - the beating of his own heart. That is why he sticks to his decision - no more hectic. The search for identity is captured here in opulent, spacious summer colors. They find no clear limitations either through the edge of the page or one another, thus documenting Hare's totally new sense of life. (4+)

91
Muggenthaler, Eva (text/illus.)
Der Schäfer Raul
(The shepherd Raul)
Wuppertal: Hammer, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 3-87294-754-0
Shepherd - Identity - Country life - City life - Love

The shepherd Raul is vain. When he sets off for the city to get prettied up, his herd of sheep take offence and follow him. They create a nuisance in the city and become, so to speak, criminals. And they interfere with the shepherd's newly found happiness. Finally he flees with them back to the country - and finds that fortune has not deserted him. An endearing story in which both man and sheep win, is well told with picturesque illustrations and excellent typography. (6+) ☼

92
Oeser, Wiebke (text/illus.)
Bertas Boote
(Berta's boats)
Wuppertal: Hammer, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 3-87294-755-9
Play - Imagination - Drawing - Reality - Loneliness

A school girl experiences very lonely afternoons, seemingly alone in the world. She folds her drawings into paper boats and a big fish gobbles one up. When she catches it, the fish throws up all the junk it has found in the ocean. Then Berta sits at the computer until she falls in the hammock, dead tired. Finally she makes a painting of all the things she has experienced and sends it off in the bottle. The style of the drawings reflect the situation of a lonely child - filled with chaos and desolation. The pictures are done in sensitive lines, mostly wiggly, set against and on flat, colored backgrounds. The pages with text in even-sized block letters in one typeface on unicolor pages serve as an order-giving contrast. The tension thus created produces a harmonious whole. (8+)

☺ Special Mention

93
Partsch, Susanna
Haus der Kunst. Ein Gang durch die Kunstgeschichte von der Höhlenmalerei bis zum Graffiti
(The Art Gallery. A stroll through the history of art from cave paintings to graffiti)
München: Hanser, 1997. 367pp. With many illus.
ISBN 3-446-18885-1
Art history

This art book for children is based on the idea of filling up a ficticious museum with exponents from every epoch. This provides the young reader with a chronological overview, through arranged in different »rooms«, of the most important periods and their contexts. The author avoids the use of intimidating insider-jargon and speaks to the reader, without being ingratiating, at an immediate level, which encourages page-turning inspite of the wealth of material being covered. Historical and aesthetic background information is elucidated with the help of maps and explanatory notes. All art forms are covered here, thus giving this work a good chance of becoming a standard work for children interested in art. (10+) ✧

94
Pressler, Mirjam (text)
Krömer, Astrid (illus.)
Nora ist mal so, mal so
(Nora is sometimes so, and sometimes so)
Frankfurt (Main): Alibaba, 1996. [36pp]
ISBN 3-860-42-167-0
Sexual abuse - Secret - Friendship
The other children in her kindergarten group cannot understand why Nora reacts so very erratically. Often she sets herself apart from others without any recognizable reason. The problem behind this behavior is only hinted at in the text. With laudable caution the delicate topic of sexual abuse is approached here in text and pictures. Instead of overprotection as a guard against such threats, the book suggests childlike solidarity between the friends. In this manner, new direct dependency upon adults can be prevented. (5+)

95
Raith, Werner
Verräterkind
(Traitor's child)
Berlin: Elefantenpress, 1997. 142pp
ISBN 3-88520-625-0
Sicily - Mafia - Witness - Family - Escape - Identity
A Sicilian boy mistakenly believes that his disappeared father has been murdered by the Mafia. But instead his father has turned witness for the state. The lives of all the family members are now in danger and they must take on a new identity. The older brother still believes firmly on the laws and honor code of the Mafia and betrays his father; then he is nearly killed himself. The state prosecutor they have trusted becomes incriminated and commits suicide. This is an impressive treatment of a topic which has been largely ignored in children's literature up to now. (10+)

96
Schami, Rafik
Märchen aus Malula
(Tales from Malula)
München: Hanser, 1997. 237pp
ISBN 3-446-18954-8
Malula - Fairy tales
In a traditional Oriental manner, Rafik Schami weaves the traditional tales from his home village in Syria into a carpet of captivating incidents. He discovered an old edition of tales written in Aramic at the Heidelberg University Library - an unexpected stroke of luck. Many of the figures he found described there were known to him as old people in his village. The text acquires a particular intensity through this personal point of view. (12+) ✧

97
Schmidauer, Elisabeth (text)
Knappe, Joachim (illus.)
Als die Tiere den Zoo verließen
(When the animals left the zoo)
Esslingen: Esslinger, 1997. [28pp]
(Esslinger Atelier)
ISBN 3-480-20048-6
Zoo animals - Homeland - Freedom - Paradise
The old elephant came to the zoo very young, but its longing for its home has never gone away. In the night of a shooting star that makes dreams come true, the chains fall from its legs and the bar doors open of their own accord. The animals of the zoo follow the elephant into freedom. The next morning all the cages are empty. Only two children have observed the animals leaving the town, but no one believes them. Everyone is convinced there has been a crime. Nighttime colors enhance this poetic story. (8+)

98
Schubiger, Jürg (text)
Berner, Rotraut Susanne (illus.)
Mutter, Vater, ich und sie
(Mother, Father, me and her)
Weinheim: Beltz & Gelberg, 1997. 106pp
ISBN 3-407-79748-6
Siblings - Family - Language - Everyday life
This is the tale of a boy who tries to come to terms with his life in his family and especially his relationship with his younger sister with the help of words. For him, language always has a literal, direct meaning. Thus he makes quite surprising discoveries about the world, such as: »The weather today has more than one R - weatherr, weatherrrr. It is raining from every direction.« This is not a matter of spelling, but an example of precise observation. This makes for a gripping reading experience, given most delightful variation by Berner's pictures and vignettes. (8+) ✪

99
Weiss, Ruth (text)
Janssen, Susanne (illus.)
Sascha und die neun alten Männer.
Das Fest der Lichter. Zwei Erzählungen
(Sascha and the nine old men.
The festival of lights. Two tales)
Wuppertal: Hammer, 1997. 120pp
(Gecko)
ISBN 3-87294-744-3
Russia - Jews - Prayer - Religious holiday - Christ
The old men of Yevka, near Odessa, are no longer able to celebrate Minyan, the Jewish worship service with all the sacred rites, because they lack the necessary tenth believer. Little Sascha, a future detective who is curious about all the secrets surrounding him, leads his father's British business partner into the synagoge. As he is also Jewish, the congregation finds its tenth man. In an impressive narrative, the author, herself Jewish, depicts the old atmosphere of an East European shtetl from the naive perspective of a modern non-Jewish child. (8+) ✧ ☼

Switzerland

100
Fuchs, Gerd
Fuffy und Max
(Fuffy and Max <Proper names>)
Zürich: Nagel & Kimche, 1997. 117pp
ISBN 3-312-00805-0
Runaway - Drug scene
Quite unintentionally and trustingly, Max finds himself in the company, and soon dependent upon the drug-users scene in Hamburg. This and his father's remarriage lead him into a heavy emotional crisis. Fuffy, a girl at his school, helps him to get over it. This lively, realistic novel works without any noticeable didactic overtones. (10+)

101
Hoffmann, E[rnst] T[heodor] A[madeus] (text)
Innocenti, Roberto (illus.)
Nußknacker und Mausekönig
(The Nutcracker and the Mouse King)
Aarau: Sauerländer, 1997. 135pp
ISBN 3-7941-4148-2
Dream - Nutcracker - House mouse
An opulent text calls for the same quality of pictures and design. With Roberto Innocenti it finds its master and the publisher offers another example of excellent production. The illustrator's pictorial space make use of both the real and dream levels of the story. Exquisite detail ensures additional compositional fantasy. Innocenti lends his unmistakable perspective to this classic children's tale. (8+)

☺ Special Mention

102
Janisch, Heinz (text)
Zwerger, Lisbeth (illus.)
Die Arche Noah
(Noah's Ark)
Gossau: Neugebauer, 1997. [32pp]
ISBN 3-85195-572-2
Noah's Ark
The centaur and the unicorn have been extinct ever since - if one is to believe this wonderful picture book - and on account of Noah, because they found no place on the Ark. A skilful narrative and inimitable pictures lead the reader through two levels of the story. On the one hand, in the obvious one as it has been handed down - with imaginative artistic enhancements - and on the other hand, strewn in perhaps as a reminder of the earnestness of God's intention to preserve one pair of each species, leaves reminiscent of old natural science books portraying the types and classes of animals. And also something usually not remembered - the sole beneficiaries of the great water were the fishes and creatures of the sea, who could now play in the cave-like windows of the flooded houses. The book radiates the contemplative clarity and serenity which often accompanies the inevitable. (6+)

103
Maar, Anne (text)
Ballhaus, Verena (illus.)
Der Käfer Fred
(Fred the Beetle)
Zürich: Pro Juventute, 1997. [31pp]
(Atlantis-Kinderbuch)
ISBN 3-7152-0378-1
Dung beetle - Stag-beetle - Costume - Competition - Victory - Identity

Fred the dung beetle is considered dirty and has few friends. And yet he wins first prize in the costume competition at the party of the arrogant stag-beetles. But when the rumor that a proletarian dung beetle is among them horrifies the noble group, Fred takes his leave of them with a defamatory song and gladly returns to his old - and clean - life as a dung beetle. Gentle insets, at times reminiscent of Ernst Kreidolf's creations, populate the pages of this book; the occasionally garish tones allude to the plot's image of a precarious social fabric. (8+)

104
Reider, Katja (text)
Roehl, Angela von (illus.)
Vom Glück ein dickes Schwein zu sein ...
Eine Geschichte
(How lucky to be a fat pig... A story)
Gossau: Nord-Süd, 1997. [28pp]
(Ein Nord-Süd-Bilderbuch)
ISBN 3-314-00758-2
Animals - Individuality - Insult - Apology - Joy of life

»To each his own« is the wish behind the text and pictures of this life-affirming book. Before a snail can imagine what it is like to be a pig, or a spider to be a goose, each of them insults the other out of pure ignorance. The initial lack of understanding is followed by thoughtful reflection and a round of mutual apologizing, thus assuring the individual joy of each protagonist. The paths of the animals shown here are paved with dramatic action and movement, earthy colors characterize the complacency of the individual realms, each with their own special pleasures. (5+)

105
Steiner, Jörg (text)
Müller, Jörg (illus.)
Was wollt ihr machen, wenn der Schwarze Mann kommt?
(What will you do when the Black Man comes?)
Aarau: Sauerländer, 1998. [32pp]
ISBN 3-7941-4305-1
Rumor - Play - Threat - Mischief - Everyday life

The »Black Man« is both a children's game and a form of parental threat for misbehaving children. But one day the children make believe what it would be like if he really came. Suddenly there are black footsteps around town, for instance, though no one is able to see him. Security measures are implemented, people lock themselves inside. This goes on for a while, and then things return to normal. What really happened is never quite clear, but the fear of strangers and the security precautions remain. In one especially memorable full-size illustration scary nightmares are depicted in which black shapes creep out from the cracks in the wall, windows and even the pavement. This book can also be read as a bitter persiflage on today's craving for security. (8+) ○

106
Ungerer, Tomi (text/illus.)
Cramer-Klett, Anna von (trans.)
Flix
<Proper name>
Zürich: Diogenes, 1997. 30pp
ISBN 3-257-00842-2
Cat - Dog - Offspring - Outsider - Fraternity

A lovely child is born to cat parents. It is a little dog. (Wasn't there a pug dog in the family...?) The fact is that (parental) love alone is not enough for a child's well-being. So young Flix is an outsider in Cat City, until fate leads him to rescue a little cat child (fame in Cat City!) and a young poodle lady (love in Dog City!). They get married and have a baby. It's a little girl and its first cry is »Meow!« The story could continue this way forever. Just as in real life. With Ungerer's pictures it wouldn't be boring either. (8+) ◇ ○

German Language /Switzerland

107
Waechter, Friedrich Karl (text/illus.)
Da bin ich
(Here I am)
Zürich: Diogenes, 1997. [40pp]
ISBN 3-257-00843-0
Cat - Offspring - Drowning - Rescue - Irony
A young cat gives an account of its path of destiny in a brief text and expressive illustrations. The large litter is drowned by the fisher or eaten by sharks - all except one. In a reversal of roles the little cat kills the shark, eats from him to grow big and strong before returning to shore. As if a human being, it travels for a time by train all about Germany and then rings the bell at the right door and announces: »Here I am!« Full of irony, the text and the cat's facial expressions reduce all of our sentimental love for animals and mankind to absurdity and life itself to the law of »survival of the fittest.« In one sense, this message could even be called fatalistic. (9+)

Romance Languages

Africa

Cameroon (French)

☺ Special Mention

108
Njeng, Pierre Yves (text/illus.)
Vacances au village
(Vacation in the village)
Yaounde: Akoma Mba, 1996. [24pp]
no ISBN
Cameroon - City life - Country life - School holidays
A city family spends its holidays in a country village with the grandparents. The leisurely pace of life leaves much time for playing outdoors, excursions into the woods and fishing along the river. In the evening by the shine of petroleum lamps grandfather tells traditional tales about heroes while grandmother prepares supper over an open fire. The rural scenes are rendered in strong earthy tones, arranged in an authentic sequence like snapshots in a photo album. The subtitles below the pictures are provided by Nwemb, the son. Candidly he admits his initial fears of the new and unknown situation. By the time of departure, he has grown to love and appreciate it. Promising to return, he exchanges gifts with his new-found playmate - his books for a turtle. The album acquires its particular charm through this youthful perspective. (6+)

109
Nomo, Vincent (text/illus.)
Le cri de la forêt
(The cry of the forest)
Yaounde: Akoma Mba, 1995. 24pp
no ISBN
Jungle - Deforestation - Wildlife
With screeching chainsaws and tractor trucks, with stinky fumes and deafening noise civilization forces its way into the jungle forest to begin clearing and destruction. The animals join together in a counterattack and drive the invaders from their severely wounded paradise this time. In artistically confident illustratrations Nomo makes tangible the contrast between the mysteriously teeming, pristine forest, whose highest trees go beyond the double-paged format, and the massive, angular bulldozer that ruthlessly sets about to devour Nature. (6+)

Romance Languages

Europe

Belgium (French)

110
Jamar, Corine (text)
DeKemmeter, Laurence (illus.)
Donne-moi la main, Arthur
(Give me your hand, Arthur)
Bruxelles: Casterman, 1997. [28pp]
(Les albums Duculot)
ISBN 2-203-55364-2
Weakness - Protection - Compensation
Arthur is small for his size and sickly. He compensates for this weakness by always wearing boxing gloves and taking an aggressive posture. With all their indulgence and encouragement his parents still cannot talk him out of it. With a subtle gesture a girl at his school is finally able to find a way past his armour and show him that friends shake hands trustingly, without gloves, in order to get along well. The illustrations convey considerable sympathy for the child's basic need for security. Humorous details prevent Arthur's problem from appearing to be a psychological abnormality. (5+)

☺ Special Mention

111
Nottet, Pascal (text)
Girel, Stéphane (illus.)
La princesse de neige
(The snow princess)
Paris/Bruxelles: Pastel/L'École des Loisirs, 1997. [30, xi pp]
ISBN 2-211-041418
River traffic - Tugboat - Winter - Puppet-theater
A sloop is locked in the ice of the Canal du Midi. Abel, the son of the barge-master, performs a puppet theater for Alys, the daughter of the lock-master. When the ice begins to melt, the barge sets off again. Abel's final play deals with a princess and a sailor, ending with a romantic promise of faithfulness. Meticulously composed illustrations, rich in mood, make this wintertime idyll a multilayered picture story with little Abel playing the leading role. An informative appendix with colored drawings describes the fact of shipping life on the canals of Europe. (5+)

France

112
Burko-Falcman, Berthe (text)
L'enfant caché
(The hidden child)
Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 1997. 186pp
ISBN 2-02-028986-5
France/World War II - Persecution of the Jews - Childhood - Identity - Bereavement - Postwar life
During the Nazi occupation of France the Jewish child Esther is sent to live in the country and thus becomes the sole survivor of her immediate family. Her host family has her baptised and gives her the name Estelle. After the war she lives in an orphanage until an aunt in Paris takes her in. As a teenager, once again called Esther, she is painfully aware of the fragile balance in her life. Her diary reflects her efforts to find her own identity by going beyond her individual role within the collective Jewish fate, and thus establish a way of life for herself. (15+)

113
Cabral, Tristan (text)
Mellinette, Martine (illus.)
Mourir à Vukovar
(To die in Vukovar)
Le Chambon-sur-Lignon: Cheyne, 1997. 45pp
ISBN 2-84116-012-2
Bosnia/War - Poetry
The poet Tristan Cabral experienced the war in Bosnia with his own eyes. In simple texts he captures images, faces, scribbled slogans on walls and gravestones. His impressions reflect the absurdity of war and the vast reaches of human brutalization which even encompassed children as victims and as witnesses. The book design uses yellow marbled paper resembling crumbled walls as a backdrop for traces of graffiti containing the last words of the murdered for the survivors. (13+)

114
Casterman, Geneviève (text/illus.)
Crowter, Kitty (illus.)
Copain des peintres
(Comrade of painters)
Toulouse: Milan, 1997. 294pp
ISBN 2-84113-605-1
Painting - Aesthetics
This handbook is a successful approach to practical, aesthetic and cognitive art appreciation. It tempts the reader to take up painting and subtly even trains the eye to look. The practical instructions are stimulating and easy to follow with the help of photos and humorous illustrations. Reprints of children's art are presented in the same manner as works from »real« painters, preferably modern painters. The child can compare and learn from the masters. He or she can develop without inhibitions and activate a perspective on art through his or her own activity. (9+)

115
Dieterlé, Nathalie (text/illus.)
Où es-tu, Lulu?
(Lulu, where are you?)
Paris: Kaléidoskope, 1997. [36pp]
ISBN 2-87767-222-0
Love - Play - Fear - Lost/Found
Any child will be able to identify immediately with Lulu, the little crocodile child, who also loves that wonderful game of hide-and-seek, loves the joy of being found again by mama or papa. Surely there is no better proof of being loved. This ceremony takes a surprising turn when Lulu wanders off too far away and gets into danger. Because Lulu's fear of being alone and lost is a universal experience, every child will enjoy the way Lulu's homecoming is portrayed here with much charm and amusement. (3+)

116
Grenier, Christian
L'ordinateur
(The computer)
Paris: Rageot, 1997. 186pp
ISBN 2-7002-2433-7
Computer - Software - Murder - Family problems
A series of mysterious deaths have occurred on the super computer Omnia 3. Does the software have the power to kill? The hero of this murder mystery risks playing a virtual murder game. Computer freaks will appreciate how she manages to solve the technical part of the case. The dangerous perfection of virtual weapons point out the risks of the new media, while the classical format of the solution reveals a human tragedy with all the traditional themes of love, coldheartedness, greed, disappointment and revenge. (14+)
(Prix Tam-Tam 1997)

117
Hoestlandt, Jo (text)
Novi, Nathalie (illus.)
La géante Solitude
(The giant Loneliness)
Paris: Syros, 1998. [36pp]
ISBN 2-84146-454-7
Differentness - Exclusion - Loneliness - God - Humanity - Suffering
Children who feel lonely, misunderstood, and unloved will be able to identify with the ostracized girl giant. They can suffer with her as she travels around the world. In the end they will both be distracted by the pain and suffering of the many other people they encounter. Whether God exists is answered in a mysterious, thought-provoking picture. The illustrations reflect the melancholy condition of loneliness. But the conclusion shows that this is not only negative. The sad child giant is changed into a beautiful, lonely island, loved by many people. (6+)

118
Le Rochais, Marie-Ange (text/illus.)
De l'eau fraîche pour Louise
(Fresh water for Louise)
Paris: École des Loisirs, 1997. 37pp
(Archimède)
ISBN 2-211-04295-3
Water cycle - Ecology - Purification of water - Responsibility
For over four million years water has circulated on Earth in a balanced cycle and as the cradle of life has guaranteed the world's continued existence. It is easy to understand how this cycle operates and what is involved in keeping it going when one accompanies father and daughter from the bathtub to the ocean in this realistic, fascinating illustrated

information book. The informal question-and-answer dialogues are convincingly employed to show how we all must share responsibility and act accordingly when dealing with this indispensible elixir. (8+)

119
Lévêque, Anne-Claire (text)
Corazza, Lynda (illus.)
Attention à la marche!
(Watch your step!)
Rodez: Rouergue, 1997. [36pp]
ISBN 2-84156-059-7
Street - Passers-by - Movement - Fun
A young girl amuses herself by watching the passers-by from her balcony over the street. Funny, grotesque-looking images depict how weird their gait looks from above. Inspired by these observations, the girl invents a different style of walking for every day of the week, turning walking into clown antics which become rather tricky to perform in traffic. The loosely rhymed text follows her criss-cross movements all about the page. These funny scenes may encourage the reader to invent other new ways of walking. (5+)

120
Mettler, René (text/illus.)
La nature au fils des mois
(Nature through the months)
Paris: Gallimard, 1997. [36pp]
ISBN 2-07-051493-5
Landscape - Nature observation - Seasons
For a full year an artist casts his eye on the same landscape, drawing twelve large-sized pictures showing the changes in nature. The reader will be enchanted by the details - the deep snow tracks in Febuary give way to springtime blooms in March. Tractor and mower follow. The meadow on the river fills with campers and empties itself again. Animals and plants are equally involved in the landscape, just as are rainstorms, fog and the changing colora of the vegetation. Foldout information sheets with details about climate, flora and fauna enhance this picturebook perspective on nature. (8+)

121
Montella, Christian de
Le premier homme sur la lune
(The first person on the the moon)
Paris: Fayard, Librairie Arthème, 1997. 104pp
ISBN 2-213-59839-8
Growing up - Sexuality - Responsibility - Humanity - Longing
Night after night a 14-year old boy observes a girl on the balcony across the street. He is shy, reflective and at times filled with self-contempt. The girl, who has a bad reputation, has also been observing him. When she unexpectedly pays him a call, their encounter leads him to examine himself more closely. Hesitantly he becomes aware of his own sensuality and recognizes in the girl a still child-like purity despite her physical maturity. He understands intuitively that longings encompass more than merely sexual desire. (13+)

122
Murail, Marie-Aude
Ma vie a changé
(My life has changed)
Paris: École des Loisirs, 1997. 180pp
ISBN 2-211044-69-7
Divorce - Mother/Son - Love - Unconsciousness - Unreality
The first-person narrator is a working mother with an eight-year old son. She manages her complicated daily life pragmatically and with grim humor, critical of herself, attentive to her son. Unknown to them, a little elf has moved in who reeks havoc with practical jokes, magic and mix-ups. The depiction of the very real presence of this unreal being is a masterpiece of narration. The scenes shift from comic absurdity to touching sentimentality. The reader readily accepts the unbelievable and senses that the feelings and needs of mother and child are crystallized in the elf. And with its help, they achieve a positive change in their own lives. (12+)

☺ Special Mention

123

Nadja (text/illus.)

Le livre des créatures
(The book of creatures)
Paris: École des Loisirs, 1997. 120pp
ISBN 2-211-043-04-6
Myth - Legend - Supernatural

The myths and legends of all the cultures of this world tell about fabulous beings, monsters, and spirits which bring either blessings or curses to mankind. Nadja provides us with portraits and short narrative characterizations so that we can recognize them when we meet them. Presented on pitch-black paper they appear at once fascinating and horrifying. The artist makes rich use of earthy tones, appropriate to those monstrous products of our fears and premonitions. The texts offer sober suggestions based on traditional wisdom about how to escape the often destructive demonism or how to capture the rarer magical powers of such creatures. In the appendix a table gives a geographic overview of the different cultural sources. This most unusual book goes along well with the current fashion of horror stories by satisfying the desire for the thrills of shock and disgust in a way that is only made possible through the rich imaginative powers of all mankind. (13+)

124

Noël, Geneviève (text)

Le Goff, Hervé (illus.)
Je m'ennuie dans mon lit
(I am so bored in my bed)
Paris: Père Castor Flammarion, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 2-08160443-4
Sleeplessness - House mouse

It is midnight. The mouse child can't sleep. She wakes up mother mouse and then begins the ritual of diversionary tactics to avoid having to go to bed that every child knows so well: going to the potty, singing, playing, hunger and thirst. In the end slumber comes of its own accord. But now mother mouse is wide awake and gleefully repeats what the child had been through. Now it is father mouse's turn to help bring on sleep. One can well imagine how the story continues, by going once again page for page through the humorous illustrations of the mouse house. (3+)

125

Perec, Georges (text)

Pommaux, Yvan (illus.)
Je me souviens
(I remember)
Paris: Éditions du Sorbier, 1997. [36pp]
ISBN 2-7320-3523-8
France/1950s - Memory - Everyday life

In 1978 Georges Perec (1936-1982) published a collection of 480 sentences which began with the phrase »I remember...« and named things which were characteristic of the everyday life and experiences of his age group (today's grandparents). Twenty of these sentences have been chosen by Yvan Pommaux and illustrated in his typical comic-book style. This album invites browsing and offers a wealth of authentic details which give the older readers pleasure of rediscovery and show the younger ones a quite foreign, long forgotten way of life. (6+)

126

Piquemal, Michel (text)

Bloch, Serge (illus.)
Nul en pub
(Failed in advertising)
Paris: Rue du Monde, 1997. 36pp
ISBN 2-912084-02-4
Consumption - Advertising

Ludo is derided by his friends because he is completely ignorant of campaign slogans and brandnames. In order to redeem himself, he studies long and hard and even wins a silly game contest. But the main prize turns out to be a hoax. Disgusted, Ludo can at last return to his favorite hobby, fishing with his grandfather. The burlesque watercolor drawings, which are interspersed like ads on television, carica-ture the idiocy of advertising. The peppy brush strokes become more subtle when they give expres-sion to the emotional sensitivity of the child. (6+)

127

Prual-Reavis, Roberto (illus.)

Une idée de chien. Dans les air
(A dog's idea. In the air)
Paris: Les Éditions Didier, 1997. [76pp]
ISBN 2-278-30048-2
Drawing - Illusion - Dog - Bird - Flight

Attractive line drawings without text tell this circular story with no ending. A dog gazes after a bird. Then it jumps on the back of the next bird flying by and they land on an island where a bird magician draws the dog a pair of wings with which it can fly back to where it started. Here it turns over its wings to a chicken who trots by and gazes after it flying away. The final image is identical to the first; the story can begin again - in the same way or differently, wherever the inspiration of the reader-child leads. (3+)

128
Serres, Alain (text)
Blondon, Hervé (illus.)
Un grand-père transformidable
(A transformidable grandfather)
Paris: Albin Michel, 1997. [36pp]
ISBN 2-226-09036-3
Grandfather - Grandson - Love - Imagination - Metamorphosis
The perspectives of the illustrations in this oversized book parallel the nearly unlimited willingness of the grandfather to fulfill the wishes of his grandson, who transforms him into a dinosaur, a giant apple pie, etc. The results, depicted in bizarre, earthy toned dreamy images, are always reversed with a kiss. But when grandfather is turned into an intergalactic warrior against his will, the reversal fails. Yet in the happy ending the two of them together again without the help of any magic. (7+)

129
Taravant, Jacques (text)
Sís, Peter (illus.)
Le marchand d'ailes
(The wing dealer)
Paris: Grasset & Fasquelle, 1997. [36pp]
ISBN 2-246-54421-1
Bird - Wings - Angel
The lovely idea that the good lord forgot to give birds wings when he created the world and thus had to send out a messenger boy to distribute them is the ideal material for this well-known illustrator. His favorite figures are the messengers between two worlds. Sís gives the young wing dealer an aura of pure naivity and sends him into a wide, unpopulated world, depicted in gentle tones on a plain background in his inimitable pointilistic style, giving it the virgin freshness of the first day of creation. The last pair of wings let the young messenger become the first angel, bringing genesis to its completion. (4+)

130
Tullet, Hervé (text/illus.)
Comment j'ai sauvé ma maman
(How I saved my mother)
Paris: Seuil, 1997. [60pp]
ISBN 2-02-030920-3
Mother - Everyday life - Bad luck - Sympathy - Love
Today is mother's bad luck day. The turbulent, chaotic pictures, rendered in the style of a child's drawings, recapitulate how everything she tries to do goes wrong. What fun it is to watch. At each turn of the page round peep holes make for new surprises. Every time the sympathetic child tries to cheer mother up, the confusion only becomes greater. But with a little cuddling, everything turns out well in the end. (3+)

131
Wagneur, Alain (text)
Fleutiaux, Pierrette (text)
La maison des voyages
(The house of travel)
Paris: Gallimard, 1997. 102pp
ISBN 2-07-050964-8
Puberty - Father - Daughter - Childhood memories
Sonia is in the middle of puberty. She is moody and feels lonely. Her mother is long dead and she thinks her father, a sea captain, doesn't understand the younger generation. Quite by chance, during a trip they take together, her father returns to the scene of his youth. Memories come rushing back and he tells her, at first shyly and hesitantly, about himself, his dreams, his friends and his first love. Sonia listens with growing interest and learns that her father, through his own experiences, has known the same feelings and problems and can thus understand his daughter. (13+)

Romance Languages

Italy

132
Argilli, Marcello (text)
Manna, Giovanni (illus.)
Il fantasma di Trastevere e altri racconti
(The ghost of Trastevere and other tales)
Firenze: Fatatrac, 1997. 72pp
(I nuovi ottagoni; 14)
ISBN 88-86228-88-0
Rome/History - City life - Adventure

These seven lively tales are woven around the city of Rome, with its ancient history, squares and buildings. In each story Rome is both setting and protagonist. With just the right balance between reality and imagination, each tale focuses on a real aspect of the city (such as a statue, a famous person, or even the Pope), allowing the legends and glorious moments of ancient Rome resurface. The historical and topographical information in these fantasy tales are well-matched by the pen-and-brush drawings depicting past and present scenes of Roman life. (9+)

133
Buongiorno, Teresa (text)
Nidasio, Grazia (illus.)
Camelot. L'invenzione della Tavola Rotonda
(Camelot. The invention of the Round Table)
Firenze: Salani, 1997. 176pp
(Grand'istrice; 8)
ISBN 88-7782-448-4
Round Table/Legend - King Arthur - Hero - Middle Ages

The legend of King Arthur and his knights is retold here in the form of a fictitious manuscript containing diary-like entries by Merlin, Morgana, Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot and Galahad as teenagers. Handing down the pen from one to the other, each character tells his own story and something of the others' from their own perspective. The use of a diary-style narrative is a successful choice because it appeals to teenage readers. It allows the adventurous tales of the Arthurian cycle to be told with adolscent eyes and values, while also conveying historical, mythical and literary knowledge of the Middle Ages. (11+)

134
Cinquetti, Nicola (text)
Rapaccini, Chiara (illus.)
Eroi, re, regine e altre rime
(Heroes, kings, queens and other rhymes)
Roma: Nuove Edizioni Romane, 1997. 80pp
(Nuova biblioteca dei ragazzi; 20; Poesia)
ISBN 88-85990-44-4
Children's poetry - Children's rhymes - Wordplay

Achilles, Copernicus, Cicero, Penelope, Pasteur and Michelangelo are only some of the famous persons portrayed in these 54 poems. With a light and ironical touch, using puns and pithy expressions, the author invites children to make their acquaintance with these internationally known figures from history, mythology, science and art. This is a stimulating, enjoyable collection of verse, rhymed and unrhymed. Noteworthy are the black-and-white drawings which complement the text, highlighting its sharpness and lyricism. (7+)

135
Fallai, Paolo (text)
Scarpa, Laura (illus.)
Le 3 chiavi
(The 3 keys)
Milano: Mondadori, 1997. 128pp
(Junior +10; 72) (Libri per ragazzi)
Father/Son - Friendship - Parental separation - Growing up - De Chirico/Painting

When Andrea's father is accused of painting forgeries of De Chirico's paintings and arrested, the son decides to make his own investigations. Along the way he learns some things that shake his glowing image of his father. But three mysterious keys, which also have metamorphic significance, help to solve the dilemma and resolve his feelings: a budding romance, concern about his parents' separation, and his anxiety about growing up. The chronicle style narrative is structured as a thriller with plenty of suspense. (11+)
(Premio Laura Orvieto 1996)

136
Frasca, Simone
Clara nella nebbia (Clara in the fog)
Trieste: Ed. EL, 1997. 55pp
(Le letture; 110)
ISBN 88-477-0052-3
Comics - Myopia

Six-year old Clara loves comic-strip stories and spends most of her time reading them. Her family thinks that her absent-minded and dreamy behavior comes from her passion for comics and don't notice that the fog that seems to surround her existence is due to something else. Only when Clara's teacher discovers that she has a mild case of myopia does she get a pair of glasses that helps to solve this problem. This is an attractive story set between fantasy and reality, where the comic strip characters come out of the pages and chat with the child. The black-and-white sketches stimulate the reader's imagination. (6+)

137
Gandolfi, Silvana (text)
Orecchia, Giulia (illus.)
L'isola del tempo perso
(The island of lost time)
Firenze: Salani, 1997. 256pp
(Gl'istrici: i libri che pungono la fantasia; 120)
ISBN 88-7782-486-7
Time - Friendship - Adventure - Fantasy
During a school trip Giulia and her bosom girlfriend, Arianna, get lost in an abandoned mine and suddenly find themselves on the island of lost time. This is a fantastic place where they encounter all sorts of things that are often lost on earth: keys and umbrellas, but also threads of conversation, memories, patience, and even people. The detailed and vivid narrative carries the reader into the dimension of »lost time«, thus revealing the importance of cultivating interests, friendship or even simply reading a book. This story is full of ingenious narrative tricks and suspense, complemented by excellent pen-and-ink drawings. (9+)

138
Giardina, Andrea (text)
Luzzati, Emanuele (illus.)
La terribile storia de Nerone
(The terrible tale of Nero)
Bari: Laterza, 1997. 92pp
ISBN 88-420-5349-X
Nero/Legend - Rome/History
Telling the story of Emperor Nero's life is not an easy task, but the author provides an accurate and meticulous portrait of this merciless despot (37-68 A.D.). The most important stations in the emperor's life and career are set in the context of historical and cultural events, giving insight into his identity as a politician, poet and musician. Luzzati's colorful illustrations are daring and graphically experimental, done in caustic, clashing colors which heighten the dramatic power of the narrative, underlining Nero's cruelty. (12+)

139
Lucchini, Matilde
C'è una lettera per te
(There is a letter for you)
Milano: Mondadori, 1997. 79pp
(Shorts; 1)
ISBN 88-04-42824-4
Adolescence - Work - School
This short novel gives a detailed description of a typical day in the life of teenaged Maria. Because she never liked school, she now works as an apprentice at a hairdresser's shop and hopes to have her own beauty salon one day. The narrative's strength lies in its witty real-life dialogues and inner monologues, studded with an adolescent's hopes, conflicts and desires. The underlying message for the young reader suggests that one should not understimate a person's abilities to make the most of his life and talents. (12+)

140
Mariniello, Cecco (text/illus.)
Il cane che ebbe tre nomi
(The dog that had three names)
Casale Monferrato: Piemme Junior, 1997. 91pp
(Il battello a Vapore / Serie oro; 3)
ISBN 88-384-7403-6
Dog/Child - Friendship - Adventure - Growing up - Nature - Ecology
During the colonial period in North America the daughter of the governor, Geneve, is given a dog. Though Lancillot becomes her best friend, the dog is turned out one day by her parents because it always comes home dirty. Lancillot sets off on a long series of adventures during which he experiences the marvels of nature of this sparsely inhabited continent. The cheerful, entertaining story closes on a happy note when Geneve and Lancillot meet again after many years. The attractive layout with warmly colored pictures captures the main events and the charm of the main character. (6+)
(Premio Nazionale d'Illustrazione »Il battello a Vapore«. Città di Verbania 1996)

☺ Special Mention

141
Quarzo, Guido (text)
Vivarelli, Anna (text)
Carrer, Chiara (illus.)
La coda degli autosauri
(The long line of autosaurs)
Casale Monferrato: Piemme, 1997. 154pp
(Il battello a Vapore / Serie arancio; 34)
ISBN 88-384-3634-7
Traffic jam - City life - Conformity - Family

One day the long line of cars on the motorway turns into such a traffic jam that movement comes to a complete standstill. Stuck in this huge traffic jam for twenty days with his family, suspended in time and space, Edoardo writes down in his diary all the extraordinary things that take place, such as his encounter with Mr. Leonardo, an eccentric scientist who descends from the sky with a hang glider. The story ends when the family decides to abandon their car and continue by foot, now finally aware of the need to reduce the automobile's domination over the cities and over their lives. This is an absorbing novel full of real-life dialogues and inner monologues, skilfully showing that children can be quite perceptive in their analysis of the adult world. The author's vivid, engaging and ironical style is an excellent match for the immediacy of the narrative . (9+)
(Premio di Narrativa per l'Infanzia »Il Battello a Vapore« Città di Verbania 1996)

142
Rapaccini, Chiara (text/illus.)
Dammi un whisky, Samanta!
(Bring me a whisky, Samanta!)
Firenze: Giunti, 1997. 60pp
(Giunti ragazzi universale / Under 10]; 26)
ISBN 88-09-21099-9
Family - Everyday life - Child/Parent - Role reversal

What would happen if adults behaved like children? Ivan and Samanta have just such an experience when their parents suddenly spend the whole day playing with toys and watching cartoons on television. Forced into a reversal of roles, the two children must take care of the housekeeping, shopping and deal with naughty parents. The author succeeds in caricaturing a contemporary family's lifestyle with wit and subtle hyperbole. Told in an easy, plain narrative style, the main events of the story are highlighted with pen-and-ink caricature-like drawings. (8+)

143
Terzagli, Matteo (text)
Zürcher, Marco (illus.)
Undici gatti paracadutisti
(Eleven cats parachuting)
Bolzano: AER, 1997. 36pp
ISBN 88-86557-65-5
Counting - Cat - Flight - Adventure

A plane with eleven cats on board takes off and from high in the sky the felines parachute back to earth. The wind lets them drift apart in different directions, so that each cat experiences its own short adventure. The story is at another level a flight through the numbers (one to eleven), encouraging children to let their imaginations soar. Reminiscent of Květa Pacovská's style, the illustrations are rich in innovative graphic ideas, at once simple and bold. The warm and airy colors are harmoniously matched, creating an exuberant atmosphere that will surely appeal to pre-school children. (4+)

144
Ziliotto, Donatella (text)
Nidasio, Grazia (illus.)
Le bambine non le sopporto
(I cannot stand little girls)
Trieste: Einaudi Ragazzi, 1997. 56pp
(Einaudi Ragazzi / Narrativa; 58)
ISBN 88-7936-237-8
Friendship - Family conflict - School holidays - Growing up

Tonina cannot go on summer holidays to the mountains because she has to repeat her chemistry exam in September. But she is determined to enjoy her vacation, even if it means working as a counsellor at the children's summer camp. She describes this experience in six letters to her closest girlfriend Lucilla, revealing much of a modern teenager's inner life. The well-drawn characterizations in the narrative find their match in the witty line-drawings which extend this spirited, comical tale. (11+)

Portugal

145
Saldanha, Ana (text)
Costa, José Pedro (illus.)
Doçura amarga
(Bitter sweetness)
Porto: Edinter, 1997. 131pp
(Edinter jovem; 16)
ISBN 972-43-0294-6
Diabetes

Fourteen-year old Loló is having a difficult time because of her poor health. At first she (and reader) suspect that she could be pregnant, but instead the diagnosis turns out to be diabetes. This novel describes how Loló, her family and her boyfriend learn to deal with the news and adjust to the chronic illness. The well-structured, unspectacular narrative takes the various perspectives of the main characters. The author, highly successful in Portugal, is able to deal with the topic of illness in children and young adults in a natural and uninhibited manner. (12+)

Romania

146
Irimescu, Diana
Ospăţul lupilor
(The wolves' banquet)
Ploieşti: Ed. Prahova, 1996. 150pp
ISBN 973-95720-7-3
Romania - Family - Everyday life - Superstition

With her special power of observation and empathy, the author carries the reader into the intimate world of a Romanian family. The stories in the first section depict the family's relationship to the animals they are raising. While they have a special place in the family and are given loving care, especially by the children, the adults see them rather as a part of the food chain. In the second part of the book, the stories show the influence and constant presence of superstition among the Romanian people - especially with regard to death, presentiment of death, and fighting illness with supernatural powers. These twenty easy-to-read stories are filled with a sense of atmosphere and authenticity. (10+)

Spain

☺ Special Mention

147
Armijo, Consuelo (text)
Gómez, Fernando (illus.)
Seráse una vez
(Once upon a time there will be)
Madrid: Espasa Calpe, 1997. 119pp
(Espasa Juvenil; 25)
ISBN 84-239-8879-1
Cow - Pasture - Country life

A herd of wayward cows romps about the pastures of the farmer Adolfo, their eccentricity giving him all kinds of trouble and keeping the entire village on edge. In eleven episodes Consuelo Armijo describes the richly varied lives of these cows - such as an encounter with a conceited breeding bull imported from Holland, or their identity problems such as when one considers itself to be a bird, while another takes itself for a monkey. Altogether they lead a paradisical life that is then only be surpassed in the real bovine heaven. Armijo endows this absurd, witty and grotesque fairy tale-like story with a fast rhythm, corresponding to the fast tempo of her protagonists' escapades. The continuous use of the future tense seems at first glance peculiar, but is quite in keeping with the pleasures of creative storytelling, with all its speculation and disregard for plausibility. (8+)

148
Atxaga, Bernardo
Un espía llamado Sara
(A spy called Sara)
Madrid: Acento Ed., 1997. 150pp
(Club; 1)
ISBN 84-483-0148-X
Spy - War - Senselessness - Survival - Spain/History 1833-1839

The sailor Martín, a spy for the supporters of the pretender to the Spanish throne during the Carlist Wars, delivers an important message and remains in a village, now transformed into an army camp, for several days. At first convinced of the noble cause of this war, he becomes disillusioned by its brutality, treachery, intrigues, and the vain ambitiousness of the military leaders. A mixture of historical fiction and crime story, this novel shows the dubious nature of war and reveals the powerlessness and often accidental involvement of individuals. (13+)

149
Ferrero, Jesús
Ulaluna
<Proper name>
Madrid: Ed. SM, 1997. 160pp
(El barco de vapor / Serie oro [roja]; 10)
ISBN 84-348-5273-x
Odyssey - Outsider - Search for identity - Growing up

Unable to steer her boat, Ulaluna drifts away from her home, an isolated village, and makes a long odyssey through her native country, a fictitious place »in the north«, until she finally finds her way home. Her tale is a mixture of adventure, fairy tale, science fiction and coming-of-age story, making it an unusual tale in which places and people have a metamorphic significance. Hence Ulaluna's story is above all a journey through the basic patterns of lives and customs in human society. (12+)

150
Jiménez Soria, Ángeles (text)
Prestifilippo, Pablo (illus.)
El abrigo
(The coat)
León: Ed. Everest, 1996. 31pp
(Colección Rascacielos)
ISBN 84-241-3361-7
Parent/Child - Coat - Magic - Imagination

Jeremías' coat is old and worn, but comfortable and endowed with magic. The sleeves, for instance, are caves for bewitched frogs, the collar protects him from blood-thirsty vampires. When his parents buy him a new jacket, Jeremías falls into despair until they also sense how magical the old coat is and with its help journey back to their own childhoods. The coat, a symbol of the desire for security and familiar things, also represents the power of childlike imagination. The spacious, open illustrations in soft, flowing colors leave much room for the beholder's imagination. (6+)

151
Mallorquí, César (text)
Krahn, Fernando (illus.)
El último trabajo del señor Luna
(Mr. Luna's final job)
Barcelona: Edebé, 1997. 245pp
(Periscopio; 50)
ISBN 84-236-4578-9
Drug traffic - Organized crime - Highly gifted child - Identity - Growing up

The paths of three quite different people cross for just a brief time in Madrid. Flor Huanaco, on the run from a cocain boss, finds a job as household helper with the family of Pablo, a boy who is highly gifted but emotionally immature. Then she is tracked down by the contract killer Luna. How Flor and Pablo save their own lives - with Luna's unexpected help - is told from different perspectives in this well-structured thriller. At another level it also describes how Pablo overcomes his personal difficulties. (12+)

152
Ribera, Jaume (text)
Ballester, Arnal (illus.)
Un problema de narices
(A nose problem)
Madrid: Anaya, 1997. 93pp
(El Duende Verde; 98)
ISBN 84-207-7559-2
Siblings - Jealousy

During his holiday in the Pyrenees, Jorge finds playmates among the other families at the guest house. The holiday mood is dampened only by the continuous fighting between two unlike sisters, Ingrid and Gina. Although Ingrid is constantly given special favors by her parents, she likes to humiliate her sister at every opportunity. When Gina is suspected of a „crime", Jorge is able to unmask Ingrid as the guilty intriguer. With a sure feeling for characters, situations, and dialogues, Ribera develops a well-paced and humorous story that convincingly captures the jealous power conflict between the two girls. (10+)

153
Timossi, Jorge (text)
Quino (illus.)
Cuentecillos y otras alteraciones
(Mini-stories and other disturbances)
Madrid: Ediciones de la Torre, 1997. 78pp
(Alba y Mayo/Narrativa; 13)
ISBN 84-7960-180-9
Anecdote - Aphorism
The intelligent, subtle texts of this Cuban author - aphorisms, anecdotes and mini-stories - play a juggling game with simple observations and language. Unconventional turns of phrase stimulate the reader to ponder the story and how it could be continued. Much is used to send the reader's thoughts off course, to »disturb« the reader, as the title suggests. Drawings of Felipe, a friend of the famous cartoon-hero Mafalda, accompany the texts. The preface explains that Jorge Timossi continues here a long tradition of Spanish short prose. (14+)

Spain (Catalan)

154
Colom, Rosa Maria (text)
Canals, Mercè (illus.)
La Dama Blanca
(The white lady)
Barcelona: Edicions de la Magrana, 1997. 125pp
(Petit esparver; 70)
ISBN 84-7410-961-2
Catalan/Folk tale
This work continues the storytelling tradition of Majorcan folk tales, drawing on their traditional setting, the historical background and figures. In a very pleasing literary style she tells six of her own new tales about kings, poor wretches, witches and gnomes. The story which gives the book its title describes a white lady who turns people to ice - statues by looking at them, while another tale deals with the last, lonesome giant who would like to marry again. A glossary at the end explains the Majorcan terms. (7+)

155
Garcia i Cornellà, Dolors
Contes a una cama trencada
(Stories told on a broken bed)
Barcelona: Galera, 1997. 117pp
(LaGalera el corsari; 28)
ISBN 84-246-8228-9
Storytelling - Imagination - Short stories
Bernat, bedridden with a broken leg, is not pleased by his cousin Cèlia's plan to help him pass the days by telling him a story. But his aversion is soon forgotten because her stories are not so uninteresting after all. And furthermore Bernat reinvents a different ending for each story, because his is never satisfied with them. This book captivates the reader with its imaginative tales in the tradition of Gianni Rodari and the use of an entertaining frame story, in which the potential and fascination of storytelling become clear. (9+)

156
Piquer, Eva (text)
Gallardo (illus.)
La noia del temps
(The weather girl)
Barcelona: Ed. Cruïlla, 1997. 127pp
(El vaixell de vapor / Sèrie vermella; 76)
ISBN 84-8286-193-x
Mother/Daughter - Puberty - Weather - Clairvoyance
Iris causes a commotion when she applies to be the »weather prophet« at her school's own television station. Her daring forecasts („It will rain frogs") come true, thus causing problems for her mother, a professional weather forecaster at a TV station. This fantasy story is interwoven with realistic aspects in the life of the thirteen-year old girl, her relationship with her widowed mother, everyday life at home, at school, with her friends, and how she deals with the first signs of puberty. Realistic and phantastic passages flow together seamlessly to form a a fast-paced, witty story. (12+)

157
Sala-Valldaura, Josep Maria
Tren de paraules
(Train of words)
Lleida: Pagès, 1997. 57pp
(Biblioteca de la Suda; Tansvaria; 2)
ISBN 84-7935-372-4
Children's poetry - Riddle

The cover of this book makes its subject evident - waiting for the train of words. A motley queue of people, a clock, a funnel-shaped loudspeaker. Not much, but enough to set the imagination of the beholder in motion. The art of reduction and allusion is characteristic for the texts of this multifaceted poetry book. The rhymed riddles, magic formulas, shortest-of-all poems, calligrams and much more are full of fantastic, imaginative wit and a feeling for language. Equally original and at times grotesque, the drawings round-out this enjoyable book. (8+)

Spain (Galician)

158
Casalderrey, Fina (text)
Rivera Ferner, Marta (illus.)
¡Prohibido casar, papá!
(Marriage forbidden, Papa!)
Vigo: Galaxia, 1996. 157pp
(Arbore/Serie azul; 88)
Motherless child - Father/Daughter - Parent/ Romance - Jealousy

Fourteen-year old half-orphan Elia has a good and intensive relationship with her father. So she is most unhappy that he has found a new girlfriend, Berta. Lying in hospital for an appendectomy, she has much time to think about her life up to now, the new situation, and her total antipathy for Berta. Alternating between Elia's first-person perspective and the occasional, more neutral third-person observations, Fina Casalderrey develops a realistic, convincing picture of the emotional world of her young protagonist. (12+)

Switzerland (French)

159
Thiel, Henry (text)
Bertola (illus.)
Hector <Proper name>
Genève: La Joie de Lire, 1997. 40pp
ISBN 2-88258-096-7
World War II - Persecution of the Jews - Horse - Friend - Escape - Death

For one whole summer, in 1943, the horse Hector is the focal point in life of the seven-year old Jewish boy, Moses. Fleeing from the Nazis, Moses is hiding on a farm. Due to their coarse manner, the farmer family is hardly able to show their love for him. Hence Moses is especially receptive to the vivacious, free spirit of the animal, which gives immediate expression of its affection for the boy. Forced again to flee, his happiness comes to a brutal end. The pursuers shoot the horse. The tragic events are given congenial expression in powerful, dark-toned watercolors. (10+)

160
Tirabosco, Tom (text/illus.)
Ailleurs, au même instant ...
(Elsewhere, at the same moment ...)
Genève: La Joie de Lire, 1997. [36pp]
ISBN 2-88258-099-1
World - Diversity - Simultaneity

The events of one moment in time which take place at different places can be leafed through in a series of poetical chalk pictures. Each individual happening holds a story of its own and reveals another aspect of this world: while a child opens up a book in his room one evening, a whale lays dying on a distant shore, a pear falls from a tree somewhere, a piece of chewing gum sticks to a shoe ... and somewhere else a child on a sand dune near an ocean is closing its book. The infinite variety and simultaneity of real life is continued in a fictional, immaterial one through the opening and closing pictures, which each show a child with a book and seem to be saying that there is also a world, a life in books - at each place, for each reading child, something special happens. (6+)

Latin America

Argentina (Spanish)

☺ Special Mention

161
Andruetto, María Teresa (text)
Stefano
<Proper name>
Buenos Aires: Ed. Sudamericana, 1997. 106pp
(Sudamericana jóven)
ISBN 950-07-1302-0
Italy/Emigration - Argentina/Immigration
At the age of 19 Stefano leaves his home in Italy to emigrate to Argentina. This novel begins with his farewells and describes the sea passage, the first difficult years on a farm and ends when he meets his future wife, Ema. Narrated in the third person, the tale is occasionally interrupted by short passages in which Stefano speaks for himself. In these monologues to Ema, Stefano recapitulates and reflects upon the loosening of his ties to his mother. Her at times wordless, at times bitter reproaches at being left behind in Italy run through the entire story like a red thread. Stefano's story is narrated in a sparce language. And yet, the feelings of lonesomeness, sadness and hope shine clearly through the realistic, seemingly emotionally dry text. It is precisely this reticent tone and the underlying thoughts and emotions that make this novel so touching and memorable. (12+)

162
Pescetti, Luis María (text)
O'Kif (illus.)
Caperucita Roja (tal como se la contaron a Jorge)
(Little Red Riding Hood [as told to Jorge])
Buenos Aires: Alfaguara, 1996. 30pp
(Infantil)
ISBN 950-511-269-6
Little Red Riding Hood/Parody - Storytelling - Reader response
In a simple and intelligent manner this book demonstrates how stories can be understood in a new and different way through the imaginations of the teller and listener. As a father tells his son the story of Little Red Riding Hood the reader of this book sees in the cartoon-bubble illustrations that quite different ideas are going through each one's mind. While the father thinks of tradional fairy-tale images, the boy - influenced by comics and cartoons - imagines a »modern-day«, action-filled version. Since only the reader ever notices how their experiences differ, this very original picture book is all the funnier. (6+) ☺

163
Roldán, Gustavo (text/illus.)
Cómo reconocer a un monstruo
(How to recognize a monster)
Buenos Aires: AZ Ed., 1997. [28pp]
(Serie del tipito)
ISBN 950-534-453-8
Monster - Identification
A little man with a tall green hat tries to answer the question of how to recognize a monster. Rather timidly Tipito approaches a giant red fabulous creature and discovers armoured plates, hard as steps, ears from which long black hair grows, a mouth as big as an eggplant. After that there is no doubt more: a real monster! The charm of this story lies in the minimalist, seemingly scribbled illustrations. Done in vivid colors, each one shows only an excerpt of the monster, allowing the viewer to replicate the limited, dwarfed perspective of the story's hero. (4+)

Brazil (Portuguese)

164
Angelo, Ivan (text)
Azevedo, Ricardo (illus.)
Pode me beijar se quiser
(You can kiss me if you want to)
São Paulo: Ed. Ática, 1997. 160pp
(Série sinal aberto: Humano)
ISBN 85-08-06281-8
Brazil/Country life - First love - Growing up
Miguel lives on an estate where his father earns the family's meager existence as field laborer. Miguel's quiet, uncomplicated life changes when his headstrong manner draws the attention of Doutor Nelson, the owner of the estate. The twelve-year old, who had hoped to join the circus, is sent to school instead. He is used by Nelson as a courier for love-letters and experiences his own first love

experience with Lindinha, the daughter of his patron. In a clear, gentle language, sensitive but not sentimental, the author depicts Miguel's at times painful and saddening experiences at the end of his childhood. (10+)

165
Cruz, Nelson (illus.)
Leonardo <Proper name>
São Paulo: Paulinas, 1997. [24pp]
(Sonhar para acordar)
ISBN 85-7311-491-6
Vinci, Leonardo da - Monument - Dream - Memories

All alone at night in the little park of the large city he stands on his pedestal: Leonardo da Vinci - a lifeless, timeless stone monument. Then birds land on him, awakening him from his rigor. Birds? Flying! Memories come flooding back: flying machines, first attempts of flight, anatomical studies, sketches, an empty canvas soon to become the portrait of Mona Lisa. At the break of dawn the dream is over, Leonard steps again onto his pedestal. Nelson Cruz tells this wordless picture book, leaving room for the reader's ideas to »fly«. His pictures, done in water colors and gouache, are witty and yet mysterious in their portrayal of dream and reality, yesterday and today. (8+)

166
Eboli, Terezinha (text)
Lima, Graça (illus.)
A lenda da lua cheia
(The legend of the full moon)
Rio de Janeiro: Ediouro, 1997. [16pp]
(Lendas brasileiras)
ISBN 85-00-00233-6
Brazil/Legend - Kaxinawa - Indio - Moon

This book in the new series »Lendas brasileiras« tells a traditional tale of the Kaxinawa tribe which deals - like many other legends - with one aspect of the origin of the world. Where did the moon come from, and why does it »go to the heads« of so many people? Because it was once a head too - the severed head of a warrior, no longer of any use on earth, which took its place in the sky. The illustrations reflect very well the atmosphere of the text. The stylizing pictures - glowing color chalk on roughly structured black paper, fit well with the mysterious nocturnal tone of the legend. (6+) ✧

167
Grupioni, Luís Donisete Benzi
Viagem ao mundo indígena
(Journey to the world of the Indios)
São Paulo: Berlendis & Vertecchia, 1997. 48pp
With illus.
(Coleção Pawana; 1)
ISBN 85-86387-15-0
Brazil/Indio

Knowledge about the native Indian inhabitants of Brazil is usually quite vague and incomplete. Here the anthropologist Luís Grupioni offers the reader more insight into those groups and their greatly varying history, culture and language. This volume contains five short stories which depict everyday situations of children and youth of five different ethnic groups. They are supplemented with further information, photos, illustrations, maps and bibliographical details of additional sources of information. (9+) ✧

168
Mello, Roger (text/illus.)
Maria Teresa
<Proper name>
Rio de Janeiro: Agir, 1996. [24pp]
ISBN 85-220-0442-0
Ship - River monster - Adventure

Maria Teresa, a widely travelled, but also rather timid ship with a lion's head, tells about its life on the River São Francisco and gives a flowery account of its highly dangerous encounter with the fierce river monster. Roger Mello has composed this story in lyrical, melodic verses and created exceptionally charming illustrations in warm, glowing colors. With a light and souvereign touch he ignores the rules of size, proportions and perspectives. His spacious panorama illustrations capture Maria Teresa's dramatic fantasies and the colorful life on the river. (6+)

Chile (Spanish)

169
Morel, Alicia (text)
Gerber, Tomás (illus.)
Leyendas bajo la Cruz del Sur
(Legends below the Southern Cross)
Santiago de Chile: Ed. Andrés Bello, 1996. 86pp
ISBN 956-13-1419-3
Latin America/Tales - Latin America/Legend

This anthology of fifteen tales draws upon the rich treasury of Indio myths and legends from Central and South America. A common characteristic is their habit of explaining natural phenomena through myths. For instance, we learn that in ancient times the legendary constellation Southern Cross was an ostrich and that the whale once lived on land, where he wreaked much havoc because of his size. Such tales, masterly and vividly rendered by the Chilean storyteller Alicia Morel, will be of special interest to readers from other cultural backgrounds. (9+) ◇

Mexico (Spanish)

☺ Special Mention

170
Gedovius, Juan (illus.)
Trucas <Proper name>
México, D.F.: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1997. [28pp]
(Los especiales de A la orilla del viento)
ISBN 968-16-5410-2
Imagination - Creativity - Oppression

Juan Gedovius' wordless picture book leaves much room for fantasy and choice of interpretation, thus setting in motion what the pictures illustrate: imagination. Creativity that cannot be held back, won't be cut down to size, and always finds a way to be expressed is the focal point here, personified as a bubbly, green, disheveled gnome. He smears color on the walls, is chastised by a »heavenly« hand, then plopped into a bathtub to get clean, threatened by the thick pencil tail of a dragon and singed by its blazing flames. And in spite of it all, he begins to decorate the walls again, this time with his sooty body. Although there seems to be little to see in this very original, attractively illustrated book, it calls for a closer look. Then it is possible to discover the wit and to become curious about what else might be hidden behind these pages. (6+)

171
Rojo, Vicente (illus.)
Escenario múltiple
(Multiple stage)
Zapopan, Jalisco: Petra Ed., 1996.
(Arte y lenguaje)
Supplement by Hugo Hiriart: Castillos en el aire. 23pp
ISBN 968-6445-17-x; 968-29-9587-6
Castle - Palace - Paper theater

Upon opening this folder one finds nine pieces of colored cardboard: round, rectangular, pointed forms, openings and slots. Are they to fold, stand up, look through - a castle, a temple a theater? Portals, merlons? Anything is possible, for this paper scenery gives few instructions; it is merely an invitation to play and experiment to one's heart's desire. An attractive brochure provides additional suggestions about theater and paper theater, about transforming and fabricating, and about abstract pictures and forms. (7+)

Venezuela (Spanish)

172
Calderón, Gloria (illus.)
Mambrú se fue a la guerra
(Mambrú went to war)
Caracas: Ed. Ekaré, 1996. [28pp]
(Colección clave de sol) (Canciones tradicionales para cantar y contar)
ISBN 980-257-166-0
War - Soldier - Farewell - Longing - Death - Grief

The well-known folk song about the bridegroom who must go to war on the day of his wedding and never returns home inspired the illustrator to tell the story in colored linocuts in which animals play the human parts. The reserved facial expressions and gestures and the dark, blue-toned night colors permeate the illustrations with a melancholy atmosphere, which contrasts the cheery, rhythmical melody of the song. Easily decipherable symbols (rose, letter, ship, etc.) elucidate the message of this story of love, faithfulness, longing, death and grief. (4+)

North America

Canada (French)

173
Demers, Dominique
La mystérieuse bibliothécaire
(The mysterious librarian)
Montréal: Québec Amérique Jeunesse, 1997. 123pp
ISBN 2-89037-829-2
Library - Reading - Passion - Literature - Illusion - Reality - Eccentricity

Books warm the heart and prickle the mind. That is the motto of Miss Charlotte, the new librarian. With bizarre new ideas she turns the musty old library in the attic of the city hall into a paradise for children and readers. The stories in the books become real for the impassioned reader. The children experience how Charlotte falls in love forever with the beast from the tale „Beauty and the Beast“. Once the most notorious despisers of books have become bookworms, Charlotte's mission is completed. She disappears again as mysteriously as she came. (8+)

174
Dubé, Jasmine (text)
Daigle, Sylvie (illus.)
Tu n'es plus seul, Nazaire!
(You're not alone any more, Nazaire)
Montréal: Courte Échelle, 1997. 61pp
(Premier roman; 57)
ISBN 2-89021-286-6
Family - Tenderness - Pregnancy - Siblings

This young author has already received prizes for her life's work, which also includes theater plays for children. Her main area of interest is the relationship between parents and children, which she depicts with considerable diversity and subtlety. Seven-year old Nazaire is the hero of this popular series of beginning readers, which glows with the warmth of a happy family nest. This adroit and yet sensitive story tells about the mother's pregnancy, the birth of the new baby and the moments of tender intimacy with father and grandfather as seen through the eyes of a child. (5+) ☼

175
Guérette, Charlotte (text)
Que le diable l'emporte!
(May the devil take him!)
Montréal: Éditions Hurtubise HMH, 1997. 139pp
ISBN 2-89428-203-6
Canada/Folktale - Devil

These tales of the devil are taken from the oral tradition of French-speaking Canada. They stem from different sources and show the devil as a master of disguise and transformations. The enlightened young readers will be immune to the thrill of such frightful superstition. They can impartially enjoy the creative inventiveness of these stories and try to imagine themselves returned to the world of their forefathers. (12+)

176
Pelletier, Francine
Damien mort ou vif
(Damien, dead or alive)
Montréal: Médiaspaul, 1997. 155pp
ISBN 2-89420-084-6
Ghost - Satanic cult - Sadism - Family - Friendship

As is usually the case in fantasy novels, the feelings of friendship which the young girl Maxine harbours for the ghost of Monsieur Culdéric, who has been dead for 150 years, have no rational explanation. But an explanation is needed after all when another ghost appears. And Maxine will have to find it. The trail leads to the mother of the neighbor children who was married once to the leader of a satanic cult. He had sadistically held her and the twin boys in his power. The author, a master of storytelling and of psychology, develops a very plausible plot to show that the abysses of the human soul put a false bottom under our reality - even without ghosts. (11+)

☺ Special Mention

177
Simard, Benjamin
Ben
<Proper name>
Waterloo: Éditions Michel Quintin, 1997. 144pp
ISBN 2-89435-100-3
Veterinarian - Nature park - Animal preservation - Adventure
Simard and his team work toward wildlife protection and the nature conservation in the forests and on the large lakes of Canada, where they have close contact with bears, wolves, and reindeer. The prerequisite for their adventurous lives is a minute knowledge of nature and a rich store of experience in the wilderness. The narration of such episodes in the lives of the conservationists is thoroughly absorbing. Simard avoids any theorizing and moves entirely within the realm of real events. These give him vast opportunity to inform, to casually instruct and to show nature in her role as the great teacher of mankind. Nature satisfies man's curiosity, grants us fascination and mobilizes our mental, practical and social abilities to reach the level of perfection that marks a mature individual. (12+)

178
Tibo, Gilles (text)
Poulin, Stéphane (illus.)
Choupette et son petit papa
(Choupette and her little papa)
Saint-Lambert (Québec): Héritage, 1997. 43pp
ISBN 2-7625-8465-5
Play - Mother - Authority - Growing up
Papa's standard phrase that he was always tied to his mother's skirts is taken quite literally by his young daughter, who pictures him in absurd, droll situations, smothered in the folds of the imposing skirt of a matronly mother. Having had such a sheltered childhood, Papa now has a lot to catch up on. And he does so to excess, while his daughter stands by and watches, slightly unnerved, but with understanding and affection. The author and illustrator, both renown for their past accomplishments, outbid one another in inventiveness and let Papa enjoy rollicking childlike capers. (6+) ☼

Denmark

179
Almajid, Fahmy (text)
Melbye, Inni Karine (illus.)
Evig flugt
(Endless fleeing)
København: Høst & Søn, 1996. 93pp
ISBN 87-14-19369-8
Irak - Golf War <1990-1991> - Kurd - Escape
Twelve-year old Kamiran and his family flee Irak over the Turkish border during the Golf War. At the end of the war only he and his mother are still alive. The Kurdish author, now living in Denmark, depicts in a clear, simple style the suffering of her people, who are not allowed to live anywhere in peace. Without condemnation, this tale of flight and survival from the point of view of the persecuted serves as an indictment against inhumanity in general. (10+) ✧

180
Arguimbau, Damián (text)
Pedersen, Anne (illus.)
Makedeus og basketsko-engeln
(Makedeus and the gym shoe angel)
København: Forum,1997. [28pp]
ISBN 87-553-2508-4
Noah's Ark
This is the story of the hare Makedeus, that runs into an angel who advises him to go to Noah and his ark, because a beastly rain is on the way. And he does so, taking a pack of other animals with him. All of them, including the angel, are portrayed here without the least degree of mawkishness, but rather grotesquely ugly and comical, just the thing to amuse children. The reason for God's new wrath is depicted in the background - weapons and war, factories and pollution, destruction of rainforests. The expressive, subdued style of the pictures is typical of the new, anti-realistic trend in picture books. (6+)

181
Brandt, Hanne (text)
Ranheimsæter, Jon (illus.)
Den hovedløse rytter.
Spøgelseshistorier fra danske slotte
(The headless knight.
Ghost stories from Danish castles)
København: Forum, 1996. 95pp
ISBN 87-553-2233-6
Denmark - Castle - Ghost
Ghost stories are not only read with pleasure by children, they are also short enough to keep the laziest reader interested. In this selection, the stories are set against the background of Danish cultural history. To add to the suspense, each one is told in the first-person and the uncanny twists of plot are illustrated in a quite congenial manner by an artist who has already proven to be an expert in the field of horror. (8+) ✧ ✪

182
Haller, Bent
Tossernes kærlighed
(The love of the fool)
København: Høst & Søn, 1997. 167pp
ISBN 87-14-19459-7
First love
Though very successful in Denmark, Haller continues to be systematically ignored by foreign publishers, perhaps because he takes the concerns of young adolescents, especially their agonies of love, seriously. In this novel, a boy of about ten years of age with speech and behavioral problems, throws himself and his unbridled love at a girl at the seashore with such force that she has no choice but to give him her attention. But rather than reaping love, he only experiences the radicalness of feelings that can attract one individual to another. (12+)

☺ Special Mention

183
Jensen, Helle Vibeke (text)
Schnack, Asger (illus.)
Hoved & hale. En billedbog om modsætninger
(Head and tail. A picture book about opposites)
København: Høst & Søn, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 87-14-19430-9
Opposites
The theme of this book is oppositeness - large and small, high and low, few and many, open and closed. But the intention of this outstanding picture book is not a didactic one, but rather to present the beholder with a creative, aesthetic game. The hero, a fish-headed girl, traverses the world of opposites in search of a new playmate. This simple construction gives the artist occasion to create richly contrasting pictures which unite the decorative elements from the turn-of-the-(20th)century - powerful contours - and surrealistic components - especially from Max Ernst and his collages in stimulating new compositions. (6+)

184
Johansen, Anders
En splint af korset
(A splinter from the cross)
Århus: Modtryk, 1997. 222pp
ISBN 87-7394-450-5
Children's Crusade <1212>
The first-person narrator, 15-year old Isabel, describes the fate of a group of children in a crusade who end up as slaves in Alexandria. Isabel is only able to survive by escaping. A thrilling and impressive psychological narrative, this is an example of the wide range of historical novels for young adults being written in Scandinavia, which more often deal with the period of the Vikings. (12+)

185
Rasmussen, Bent (text)
Bourgeat, Lene (illus.)
Den gode dværg
(The good dwarf)
København: Alinea, 1997. 60pp
(Læs dansk bøgerne/Blå serie)
ISBN 87-23-00237-9
Dwarf

The author is also the editor of this new series for beginning readers and readers with reading problems. The series consists of three levels of difficulty. Following the postulates of reading teachers, the sentences use simple grammatical constructions laid out in short lines. And still the legend-like stories about dwarves are, thanks to the author, readable and exciting. (6+) ☼

186
Seighali, Morteza (text)
Rød, Signe (illus.)
Lagkage på flugt (= Kolac u bijegu)
(The cake on the run)
Århus: Husets forlag, 1997. 29pp
ISBN 87-7483-379-0
Despotism - Resistance

The birthday cake of a king, who has let his country starve in order to gorge himself, runs away and lets itself be eaten up by those who helped to make it. This fable - written here in six languages (Danish, Croatian, Persian, Somalian, Arabic and Turkish) - and accompanied by naive but unerring illustrations, brings the Danish democracy into play for children who have come to Denmark from those countries where dictatorship rules. (6+) ✧

187
Vebel, Susanne (text)
Edeltoft, Anne Mette (illus.)
Manden og katten
(The man and the cat)
Hillerød: Alma, 1997. 30pp
ISBN 87-7243-167-9
Love - Cat - Metamorphosis

This ancient fable tells of a man who falls in love with a cat who, even after she has been transformed by Venus into a lovely young girl, is unable to renounce her true nature. The moral of the story still holds today: one should let each individual live according to his or her nature. And a further, rather bitter truth: love alone cannot overcome any barriers. In this first picture book created completely on her own, Anne Edeltoft has refined her typically vigorous contour lines to attain a light touch of caricature, but retains her rather somber palette of colors. (5+)

188
Winding, Thomas (text/illus.)
Hentze, Peter (illus.)
Emile og naturens orden
(Emile and nature's order of things)
Frederiksberg: Branner og Korch, 1996. [28pp]
ISBN 87-411-5773-7
Order - Imagination

For an African boy whose parents are artists, home is the quintessence of order and Nature that lies beyond it the quintessence of chaos. As a way of explaining that every part of Nature carries its own order within itself, even if not immediately evident, the illustrations which are at first fairly naive are then followed by a series of almost abstract compositions in which the shape of animals is only barely recognizable in the chaos of colors. A cow stung by a bee that ultimately tramples over the mother's jars of paint does indeed bring about a real chaos, the breakdown of order. (6+)

Finland

189
Lemmetty, Jukka (text/illus.)
Leo Z
<Proper name>
Helsinki: Otava, 1996. [36pp]
ISBN 951-1-14423-5
City - Adventure

There are several Finnish illustrators, such as Hannu Taina and Kaarina Kaila, who are known abroad. The bustling books of the caricaturist Mauri Kunnas are also popular outside of Finland. Making friends with this book may be more difficult because its gaudy, bright colors frighten adults - but not necessarily children. With wildly drawn lines and painfully piercing colors this book tells the story of the absurd journey of a boy and a man through an urban Moloch, letting children anticipate what kinds of discoveries they could make in their own city. (8+)

190
Salminen, Hellevi
Pikku sammakkoprinssi
(The little Frog Prince)
Helsinki: Otava, 1996. 126pp
ISBN 951-1-14385-9
Physical handicap - Self-assertion

Until now only known as a writer for young adults, Salminen now offers a book for children about a young, crippled boy. Though he is considered untalented, he is able to surprise everyone around him with his abilities and his imagination. Written in the dialect of south-eastern Bothnian, the story offers much verbal humor, while the secret world of the boy adds a fantastic element and the descriptions of everyday events remain realistic. (10+)

Iceland

191
Guđjón Sveinsson (text)
Erlu Sigurđardóttur (illus.)
Kvöldstund međ pabba. Lítil saga handa börnum
(Evening hour with Papa)
Breidalvík: Mánabergsútgáfan, 1997. 35pp
ISBN 9979-9147-2-6
Father/Son - Everyday life

We become acquainted with an episode of childhood in Iceland when Karl Agnar and his sister spend an evening alone with their father because their mother has gone out. In accord with a familiar motif, father, a teacher, must come to terms with an unaccustomed activity. And along the way we learn something of Iceland's way of life. The several colored pictures which illustrate the book are done in modest realism; outstanding children's book illustrators are seldom found in this small country. (6+)

192
Magnús Scheving (text)
Halldór Baldursson (illus.)
Latibær í vandræđum
(Latibær needs help)
Reykjavík: Æskan, 1997. 103pp
ISBN 9979-808-34-9
Small town - Adventure

While this small town slumbers along in summertime indolence, it is visited by a mysterious man in a black cloak and tophat, who causes much confusion among the town's sport fans, before taking to his heels in the end. This amusing story with robust, comic-like illustrations is the third volume in a successful series about the city of Latibær. (8+)

Norway

193
Bonde, Heidi
Flamingohøsten har begynt. Skisser og samtaler i et forfatterverksted
(The autumn of flamingoes has begun. Sketches and conversations from a writing workshop)
Oslo: J. W. Cappelen, 1997. 119pp
ISBN 82-02-16756-6
Writer - Poetry - Family life

A mother tries to reconcile her profession as a poet with her duties toward her family. The prosaic nature of everyday life (lost socks, unbalanced household accounts, scorched pans, etc.) which she takes as her subject matter leads to a fruitful dialogue about the issues of poetry. And yet there is a need for inspiration. »Inspiration is when I get no lunch«, comments the young son, in this thoroughly original and humorous contribution to a discussion of the nature of poetry writing. (12+)

194
Fosse, Jon
Fy å fy. Hundemanuskripta 3
(Fie! Fie! A dog's manuscript 3)
Oslo: Norske Samlaget, 1997. 41pp
ISBN 82-521-4958-8
Dog - Jealousy - Rivalry

The ship dog Haktor had lived long and peaceably on the crane barge until the skipper came up with the barmy idea of getting a second dog, supposedly because Haktor is getting too old. On account of this new she-pup Loliletta, young, brazen and full of appetite, Haktor comes to the conclusion that life is no longer worth living. Fosse cleverly avoids using the weak, begging-for-sympathy mode of first-person narration, but still tells this short story from the dog's perspective, which gives occasion for an amusing choice of phrases. This book is an example of the publishers intention to make the artificial language of Nynorsk popular through good books. (8+)

195
Johnsen, Kjell Erik (text)
Düzakin, Akin (illus.)
Herr Siml prøver å finne seg selv
(Mr. Siml tries to find himself)
Oslo: J. W. Cappelen, 1997. [26pp]
ISBN 82-02-16601-2
Bibliophile - Fiction/Reality

Since Mr. Siml cannot find anything anymore among his many books, in the end he cannot even find himself. His image appears only as a phantom between books and pictures - the great occasion for the very original illustrator to invent picture puzzles. When Mr. Siml becomes so desparate that he begins to cry, he begins to recall that he is a human being and he takes steps back into life again. This is a gentle admonition to young and old book lovers about the dangers of loosing one's self in the illusory world of books. (8+)

196
Nicolaysen, Marit (text)
Dybvig, Per (illus.)
Kloakkturen
(The journey through the sewage canals)
Oslo: Aschehoug, 1996. 55pp
(Aschehoug illustrerte barnebøker)
ISBN 82-03-24153-0
Sewage canals

One hot summer day a group of school children are forced to make a tour of the sewage canal system. While they are being told about the function of the sewers - and on the brink of claustrophobia and nausea due to the stinking odors and the rats - one of the boys faints. He becomes acquainted with the romantic side of the sewer keeper, realizes that his house rat is a finer one than the canal rat and even gains a girlfriend through it all. Told with a dry sense of humor, this short tale and its outrageous caricatures in the style of Quentin Blake will be most enjoyed by children who are reluctant readers. (10+) ☼

☺ Special Mention

197
Nyquist, Arild (text)
Graff, Finn (illus.)
Gullens drøm om en øy
(Sweetie's dream of an island)
Oslo: Aschehoug, 1997. [61pp]
ISBN 82-03-24182-4
Father/Daughter - Sexual abuse

A young girl, who is at the mercy of her father's advances because she gets no support from her weak-willed mother, dreams of being rescued by a dog, a sailor and a bird and finally fleeing from her somber home to live in peace on an island. Both text and illustrations handle this delicate topic neither in a blunt way, nor in awkward or crude manner, as in some other works, but in a poetic, alluding narrative with even more direct insinuations in the illustrations. These pictures make it clear that the father's fixation on his daughter may well be accompanied by an erotic ambivalence. The artist gives expression to this through the surreal scenes in which the very relaxed posture of the daydreaming girl - the composition copies a painting by Balthus - do not portray a suffering child, but a creature with an erotic aura. (12+)

198
Sortland, Bjørn (text)
Hiorthøy, Kim (illus.)
Den solbrente mammaen som
blei bytta mot ti kamelar
(The sun-burned mother who
was traded for ten camels)
Oslo: Aschehoug, 1997. 83pp
(Lesehesten)
ISBN 82-03-24208-1
Jordan - Vacation - Culture clash

An unplanned vacation in Aqaba, in Jordan, leads to a surprising cultural experience for a Norwegian family when the mother, in good fun, accepts the bride price being offered by a native Jordanian. This is a burlesque novel with a touch of exotic by the now internationally renown author Sortland. It won the publisher's prize as best children's book in 1997. Just as unusual as the story are the binding and illustrations in a strictly linear style, which are a welcome change from the average naturalism of many children's book illustrations. (8+) ✧

Sweden

199
Brinck, Lotta (text)
Räder, Andréa (illus.)
Gröna rätter för unga kockar
(Green dishes for young cooks)
Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 1996. 77pp
ISBN 91-29-63054-1
Vegetarian cooking
Vegetarian dishes from different countries are presented with clear, easy to follow instructions in such a way that young people can prepare them without problem. The dishes are not presented as photographs but in lovely, unpretentious color illustrations. (10+) ✧

200
Dunér, Anna (text)
Raagaard, Kirsten (illus.)
Emilia i simhallen
(Emilia at the swimming pool)
Stockholm: BonnierCarlsen, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 91-638-0752-1
Swimming
This book for the youngest readers is representative of similar series for the same readership, which are typical for Scandinavian countries in their naturalness and matter-of-factness. Many experienced, and even the best artists in the field work on these series. Kirsten Raagaard, for example, is a seasoned draftswoman who maintains a good balance between childlike and true-to-nature representations. Typically Scandinavian is the unabashed portrayal of nakedness or toilet-usage, as well as the presence of only one parent, mother or father. (3+)

201
Eklund Lykull, Anita
Julia mitt i världen
(Julia in the middle of the world)
Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren, 1996. 331pp
ISBN 91-29-63773-2
Adolescence - Love - Personality development
The third novel of a trilogy finds Julia now a student and having to readjust her life after just being left by her first boyfriend. The search for new relationships and a tour of Europe help to raise her self-confidence. This novel is an example of numerous Scandinavian novels which take adolescents on the doorstep of the adult world seriously and avoid any attempts at indoctrination. (14+)

202
Klefelt, Lena (text/illus.)
Mosad banan. En bok för små och stora direktörer
(Smashed bananas. A book for young and old directors)
Stockholm: Eriksson & Lindgren, 1997. [24pp]
ISBN 91-87805-06-5
Infant - Adult - Role reversal
The artist takes the old theme of »topsy-turvey world« and gives it an original twist by letting an authoritarian director and father experience in a dream how an infant feels, how helpless and powerless one is as a child. Incidentally it seems to be typical for these times that only fathers are authoritarian and in need of re-education. The mothers in such books are notoriously modern and even unbearably tolerant. Klefelt's extremely unobtrusive, minimal line drawings and dry color pencil coloration complement this grotesque story excellently. (5+)

☺ Special Mention

203
Larsson, Mona
August Strindberg. Bilder ur hans liv
(August Strindberg. Pictures from his life)
Stockholm: LL-Förlaget, [1997]. 74pp
ISBN 91-88180-35-2
Strindberg, August/Biography
In a very simple and factually condensed form, that is nonetheless quite interesting to read, this

book presents Strindberg's life, documented with historical photographs, and creates a portrait of his times. This citation is also meant to give recognition to the remarkable publishing program of LL (Lättläst stands for easy-to-read), which produces books that take their readership seriously. Some titles deal with developmental disorders, autism, aphasia or dyslexia, fighters, reluctant readers or immigrant children. Among LL's specialities are the heavily abridged re-editions of classics such as by de Maupassant, Shelley or Lagerlöf. Photodocumentary stories tell about the vacation of two developmentally retarded young women or about the love relationship of a woman in a wheelchair. The books are exceptionally attractive, well-illustrated, printed on good paper and nicely bound. Also the didactic conceptualization of the information books is excellent, their graphic design of lovely pictures and photographs is clearly arranged, and the text is kept as concise as possible. (12+)

204
Lekander, Nina (text)
Zweigbergk, Helena von (text)
Ahlbom, Jens (illus.)
Pojken och staden
(The boy and the city)
Stockholm: Bonnier Carlsen, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 91-638-0657-6
City life - Everyday life

Books which depict life in the city are still a relatively rare thing. All the more reason to welcome this picture book in which the daily troubles of city kids and their vexed parents are portrayed in witty, exuberant scenes of life. The city of Stockholm is readily recognizable, but the episodes involving parking violations, busses full of children, dog poop, and grocery shopping can be found in many similar cities. Typically Swedish is, however, the touch of local color, for instance, in the state-run alcohol shop with the advertisement »Buy a little less, be happy in moderation.« (6+)

◇ books whose content is found contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples

○ books with easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics

205
Lindgren, Barbro (text)
Höglund, Anna (illus.)
Nu är vi gorillor låssas vi
(Now let's pretend we are gorillas)
Stockholm: Eriksson & Lindgren, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 91-87805-10-3
Play - Patronization

With their »alternative« picture books for the youngest readers, not those sweetish and ridiculous ones, Scandinavian publishers are still far advanced. This one deals with children at play, deftly illustrated with naive pictures that focus on the essentials of the plot. While adults are always faulted in children's books for being so patronizing to children, here the older child is allowed to get away with playing the »father« to the younger one, much to their mutual delight. (4+)

206
Ollars, Janne (text)
Örtengren, Lisa (illus.)
En onsdag i Karl Grans liv
(A Wednesday in the life of Karl Grans)
Stockholm: BonnierCarlsen, 1996. 95pp
ISBN 91-638-3296-8
Personality development

Karl Gran, a boy who cannot yet tell the difference between fantasy and reality, brings confusion to the adult world around him with his ideas.
The naive tone of the narrative, told from Karl's perspective, is an ironic portrayal of adult fallibility. The traditional style line drawings are skilful caricatures. The author won the publisher's competition with this book in 1995. (8+)

207
Schenkmanis, Ulf (text)
Johansson, Sven-Gösta / Forsberg, Lasse (photos)
Waltmark, Barbro (recipes)
Vanliga bär
(Common berries)
Stockholm: LL-Förlaget, 1997. 72pp
ISBN 91-88180-90-5
Berries

The brief text gives a minimal explanation of the essential botanical details and other practical information. Very beautiful photographs of the individual berry sorts (including the well-known kinds of currants, wild and cultivated strawberries, and Scandinavian specialities such as blueberries, cranberries and others) make them easily recognizable. Several easy recipes which young adults will not hesitate to try are included at the end of the book. (10+) ☼

208
Toss, Anna (text)
Ahlbom, Jens (illus.)
Jag, mamma och Socka Musen
(I, Mommy, and Sockamouse)
Stockholm: Alfabeta, 1996. 77pp
ISBN 91-7712-744-7
Mother/Child - Storytelling

A mother tells her young son phantastic stories in which the younger sister always plays a heroic part. The stories are understandable without being laboredly childlike and written with a dry humor that older children will also appreciate. This is an unpretentious read-aloud book with simple but skilfully drawn black-and-white illustrations. (6+)

209
Wahl, Mats
De övergivna
(The forsaken)
Stockholm: BonnierCarlsen, 1997. 206pp
ISBN 91-638-3461-8
Juvenile delinquency

The by now widely-known author could not resist the temptation to write a sequel to »Vinterviken« as the middle volume of a trilogy. But Wahl's narrative skill, his inimitable portraits drawn from the oppressive milieu of social misfits, which he once knew first-hand as a social worker, and his dialogues are so captivating that one gladly gets drawn into his stories. Naturally the focal point is once again the socially marginalized hero, 19-year old John-John, who together with two friends becomes petty thief and runs up against big-time criminals, who force the boys to take part in a kidnapping. (14+)

Croatia

210
Macan, Darko (text)
Bartolič, Stjepan (illus.)
Knjige lažu!
(Books are liars)
Zagreb: Znanje, 1997. 119pp
ISBN 953-6473-92-5
School - Everyday life - Nickname - Rivalry

This is the first children's book by Darko Macan (*1966), an author already known for his comics and science fiction novels. In this funny and authentic depiction of the everyday life of fifth grade pupils in Zagreb, he casts light on their relations with one another and the first boy-girl romances from the psychological and sociological perspective. Of particular interest and effectively depicted is a longer section about the feuds and fights within the class, through which Macan portrays the structures of hostility and their origins. (9+)

211
Maleš, Dubravka (text)
Stričevič, Ivanka (text)
Macolič, Nevenka (illus.)
Čolič, Marko / Krčadinac, Željko (photos)
U Zagrebu jednog jutra
(One morning in Zagreb)
Zagreb: Školska knjiga, 1996. [40pp]
ISBN 953-0-00043-X
Zagreb

This book has a dual focus. On the one hand it is a picture book story about little Darko when he gets lost while shopping with his mother and sister at the Zagreb market. In this part of the book, one is enchanted by the successful combination of simple drawings of the protagonists and photos of their surroundings. The second part is an information book for children which presents the most important buildings and historical sites of Zagreb through text and illustrations - from the equestrian statue of King Tomislav (crowned in 925) to the zoo at Maksimir Park and to Cibona Tower next to the new basketball arena. (4+)

212
Matičevič, Ivica (ed.)
Kirin, Vladimir (illus.)
Hrvatske bajke i basne
(Croatian Tales and Fables)
Zagreb: Alfa, 1997. 166pp
Croatia/Tales - Croatia/Fables

This meticulously designed book opens with the fairy tales of the classic Croatian chidren's writer Ivana Bilić-Mažuvanić (1874-1938) and the social critic Vladimir Nazor (1876-1949), who both drawn upon folk writings and integrate Slavic myths into their tales. In addition, the book contains very interesting modern fairy tales by five contemporary Croatian authors and also fables, some original, some retold by Croatian writers dating from the 18th century to today. (7+)

Czech Republic

213
Branald, Adolf (text)
Lhoták, Kamil (illus.)
Dědeček automobil
(Grandpapa Car)
Praha: Albatros 1996. 31pp
ISBN 80-00-00237-X
Automobile - Motocycle - Motoring/History 1897-1915

Adolf Branald relates in an absorbing and vivid manner the history of the Czech automobile and motocycle manufacturer Laurent & Klement and life stories of Václav Laurent and Václav Klement in the period between the turn of the century and the outbreak of World War One. At the same time he depicts the beginnings of motor sport in other places, especially in Austria and France, within the context of historical and social factors. The book includes illustrations by the famous Czech sketch artist Kamil Lhoták, which reflect the spirit of the early 20th century. (10+)

214
Psůtková, Zdeňka (text)
Vychodlilová, Olga (illus.)
Bára
<Proper name>
Praha: Albatros, 1997. 191pp
(Klub mladých čtenářů)
Czechoslovakia/World War II - Everyday life/Youth

This sequel to the novel »Holidays with Bára« (Prázdniny s Bárou), which was published in 1985, is set in the years of German occupation of Czechoslovakia (1938-1945). The protatagonist Bára, whose experiences reflect those of the author, is ten years old as the story begins. From Bára's perspective, the author gives an believable portrayal of the absurdity of circumstances during the so-called »Protectorate« era and a sensitive glimpse into the daily joys and pains of an adolescent girl in this well-written novel. (12+)

Lithuania

215
Augiaus, Pauliaus (reteller/illus.)
Pupos pasaka
(The tale of the beans)
Vilnius: Lietus, 1996. 26pp
ISBN 9986-431-21-2
Lithuania/Tales - Beanstalk - Forbidden fruit

This Lithuanian tale incorporates motifs from the English tale »Jack and the beanstalk« and the Biblical story of the tree of knowledge. Paulus Augius (1909-1960) wrote this version while in exile and illustrated it in an expressive style combining elements of Lithuanian folk art and avant-garde. At long last Augiaus' lovely picture book, which conveys much of the past times in rural Lithuania, could be published in his own country. (4+)

216
Vainilaitis, Martynas (text)
Žviliuvienė, Irena (illus.)
Žydras povas povinėja
(The blue peacock takes a stroll)
Vilnius: Lietuvos rašytojų sąjungos
leidykla, 1996. 172pp
ISBN 9986-413-53-2
Lithuania/Children's poetry

One of the most renowned Lithuanian book illustrators has provided imaginative and at times surrealistic illustrations for this collected volume of old and new children's poems by the popular Lithuanian poet Martynas Vainilaitis. The poet finds inspiration in the Lithuanian folk literature tradition and celebrates above all motifs from nature, often using onomatopoeia and musical elements. Animals and plants are usually portrayed as anthropomorphic characters or as spirits. (5+)

Poland

217
Banaszak, Dariusz (text)
Biber, Tomasz (text)
Leszczyński, Maciej (text)
Siejkowski, Lech (graphics)
Ilustrowane dzieje polski
(Illustrated Polish history)
Poznań: Podsiedlik Raniowski
i Spółka, 1997. 131pp
ISBN 83-7083-645-3
Poland/History

This richly illustrated information book about the history of Poland takes as its basis the history of its rulers, but also provides interesting information about ordinary life and customs in each epoch. The authors begin with the first Slav settlements in the territory of present day Poland and move on to the numerous wars, divisions and reunifications which have characterized its past. In addition, the book contains considerable information about the development of art and culture in Poland. (10+) ✧

218
Glówka, Małgorzata (text)
Kasprzak, Jędrzej (text)
Streliński, Paweł et al. (photos)
Witkowski, Józef (illus.)
Tajemnice lasu
(Secrets of the forest)
Poznań: GMP 1997. 38pp
ISBN 83-87368-85-7
Poland - Forest

This information book, written in cooperation with the regional forestry agency of Posen (Poznań), is notable for its excellent photography and the both lyrical and informative text. It calls to mind the famous Russian picture book »God v lesu« from Ivan Sokolov-Mikitov and G. Nikol'skij. As in that book, the life of animals and plants over the course of a year are described. Along with photographs, this volume also includes drawings of the most characteristic types of trees found in the Polish forest. (7+)

☺ Special Mention

219
Musierowicz, Małgorzata (text/illus.)
Córka Robrojka
(The Rob-Roy girl)
Łódź: Akapit Press, 1996. 219pp
(Musierowicz, Małgorzata: Jeżycjady; 11)
ISBN 83-86129-80-8

The first young adult novels by the graphic artist Małgorzata Musierowicz which she wrote at the end of the 1970s represented Poland's first significant modern novels for teenage girls. In this book, Robert, a distant relation of Walter Scott's novel hero Rob Roy, returns to his home town of Posen (Poznań) together with his daughter Arabella. At one level, the narrative describes the activities of the not especially pretty, but quite dynamic and assertive Arabella and day-to-day life of adolescents in Poland. On another, inserted into the narrative as flashbacks, one learns of the unhappy story of Robert. The individual episodes ultimately fit together like a puzzle to form an overall picture. Musierowicz employs a very vivid language and does not avoid addressing problems or making allusions to current political issues. (12+)

220
Thor, Piotr Robert (arrangement)
Szancer, Jan Marcin (illus.)
Kolędy. Chwała na wysokości a pokój na ziemii
(Christmas songs. Jubilee on high and peace on earth)
Poznań: GMP 1997. 144pp
ISBN 83-8511-14-9
Christmas songs

This very beautiful Christmas song book contains both songs from the different regions of Poland and internationally known songs which are widely sung in Poland (in Polish translation). The illustrations, which transplant the Christian motifs and setting to Central Europe and also make use of Polish folk customs, are by the great Polish graphic artist Jan Marcin Szancer (1902-1973). (5+)

Russia

221
Moskvina, Marina L. (text)
Burkin, Vladimir (illus.)
Moja sobaka ljubit džaz
(My dog loves jazz)
Moskva: Olimpionik, 1997. 94pp
no ISBN
Russia - Family - Everyday life

Is this a surrealistic book about the exciting daily life of a Russian family or an authentic portrait of the surrealisic everyday life of a Russian family in post-Soviet times? The sprightly stories, narrated by the youngest son, deal with school problems and special tutoring, with house plants and marital problems, with UFOs, extraterrestials and other strange visitors, with a burning tree and with a mumified and now resurrected German soldier from World War II. The final story tells about the family dachshund »Whale« who accompanies the oldest son to military service in the Pamirs and disappears across the border - but not really quite forever. The bizarre, idiosyncratic illustrations are well-suited to the unconventional text. (11+)

Slovakia

222
Hevier, Daniel (text/illus.)
Heviho ABC (Hevi's ABC)
Bratislava: Hevi, 1996. [68pp]
(Hevi klub)
ISBN 80-85518-84-8
Alphabet

Daniel Hevier gives proof once again of his all-around talents. He has contributed both text and illustrations of this highly effective picture book of verses and published it in his own publishing house. The letters represent animals or objects which are of interest to children today. The texts, composed in a catchy rhythm, are witty and sassy. (5+)

223
Klimáček, Viliam (text)
Tóth, Dezider (illus.)
Noha k nohe
(Foot by foot)
Bratislava: Hevi 1996. [128 pp]
ISBN 80-85518-22-8
Foot - Tracks

In this intelligent book for children the author considers a wide range of situations children and adults may encounter in their lives. Starting point for him are the feet or, rather, the footprints and tracks which are usually - but not always - left by feet. Written in witty verses or in prose, the stories deal, for instance, with the first steps one takes, with a man with an adult foot and a child's foot, with a man who collects places to stand, with tracks on paper, with art in various forms, and other ideas. The illustrations range from humorous drawings to photos and collages. (6+)

☺ Special Mention

224
Plická, Karol (text)
Valíček, Karol (storytelling)
Ševellová, Katarína (illus.)
Zámok na horúcom mori.
Slovenské ropzprávky z Rumunska
(The castle at the hot sea. Slovakian
tales from Romania)
Martin: Osveta, 1996. 182pp
ISBN 80-217-0565-5
Romania/Slovakian/Tales

After the Second World War a small Slovakian minority in the Transylvanian Alps returned to the land of their forefathers, where they were discovered by Karol Plická in 1953 during a photography tour of northern Moravia. The tales of this ethnic group that he recorded then remained unpublished until now. Because these Slovakian storytellers had been isolated for nearly 150 years from the rest of their people and the influences of modern civilization, the language and narrative structures that were passed along retained their authenticity. The tales about witches, wizards, fairies, werewolves, talking animals and trees, dragons and golden castles are depicted in especially beautiful illustrations. The watercolors, both full-paged and vignettes, are full of atmosphere and the figures portrayed in a style reminiscent of Amedeo Modigliani. (8+)

225
Sliacky, Ondrej (adapt.)
Končeková-Veselá, Ľuba (illus.)
Biblia pre deti a mládež. Čitanie zo Starého zákona
(The Bible for children and young people. Stories
from the Old Testament)
Bratislava: D&D Studio, NONA, 1996. 248pp
ISBN 80-967622-0-6
Children's Bible

This very attractive children's Bible is notable for its excellent text version by Ondrej Sliacky, who has kept close to the traditional Slovakian translation. Modern phrasing has been used cautiously, without endangering the biblical style of expression. Remarkable is also that the editor addresses both Christian and atheist families in his foreword, stressing not only the religious but also the literary, philosophical and cultural significance of the biblical texts, thus orienting them around modern social reality. This volume is beautifully designed with an imitation vellum binding and antique-style gilt edge. Some of the illustrations by the popular Slovak painter Ľuba Končeková-Veselá may well be considered masterpieces of art. (8+)

Slovenia

226
Sitar, Jelena (text)
Cvetko, Igor (illus.)
Primeri detektiva Karla Loota.
Skrivnost v galeriji ali zgodba o senčnih lutkah
(The cases of detective Karel Loot. The secret of
the gallery, or the story of the shadow puppets)
Ljubljana: DZS, 1996. [68pp]
(Umetnost igre ; 2)
ISBN 86-341-1735-9
Art gallery - Shadow play - Detective

When the most valued picture in an art gallery begins to change constantly, the director calls in Detective Loot to clear up the mystery. Loot studies the picture very carefully and guards it all night long. Gradually it begins to change, shadows move back and forth across it. Karel Loot is stymied until he discovers that he is watching the scenes of a shadow play. But then suddenly Karel Loot vanishes, too. This picture book is illustrated with funny, bizarre pictures. The story is suspenseful and also reveals some information about the principles of shadow theater. (5+)

Other Languages

Belgium (Dutch)

☺ Special Mention

227
Dreesen, Jaak (text)
Heymans, Annemie (illus.)
Marieke, Marieke
<Proper name>
Averbode: Altiora, 1997. 44pp
ISBN 90-317-1269-8
Death/Child - Grief

In this magnificent poetic picture book the first-person narrator is waiting, desparately missing Marieke. He has laid out all kinds of things under the apple tree, waiting for her to come and play. The combination of a melodious rhyming text and grey-tone illustrations evokes an atmosphere of increasing tension. Then, with the arrival of Marieke's mother, it becomes clear that the girl will never come again, though this is not stated explicitly. In spite of the tangible sense of emptiness, the open ending provides some comfort - Marieke is gone but will always be present in another way. (6+)

228
Driessen, Iny (text)
Westerduin, Anne (illus.)
Bruine ogen, Blauwe ogen
(Brown eyes, blue eyes)
Hasselt: Clavis, 1997. 43pp
ISBN 90-6822-487-5
Adoption - Cultural identity

Six-year old Benjamin doesn't share the excitement of his parents and three brothers about the coming of two new sisters and it takes some time for him to accept the new situation. Simone and Erlan, the two sisters from Haiti, must take leave of their mother to join their new well-to-do family in Belgium. From Simone's perspective we learn about their sense of grief and difficulties of adjusting to their new lives. The two narratives in this book give an excellent picture of the experiences of adopted children and their families. It is written with warmth and respect while also providing useful background information. (8+)

229
Elias, Bettie (text)
Westerduin, Anne (illus.)
Water van zout
(Bitter tears)
Mechelen: Bakermat, 1997. 108pp
ISBN 90-5461-133-2
Death/Father - Grandfather - Grief

When their father dies in a car accident, eight-year old Dries and his sister have a very difficult time coping with their grief. In simple short sentences recorded in his diary, Dries is able to work through feelings of disbelief, anger, confusion and guilt. His grandfather is a constant presence and full of understanding. Both he and Dries' sister help him to come to terms with his sorrow. The attractive black-and-white pen drawings render the atmosphere of this sensitive story very well. (8+)

The Netherlands (Dutch)

230
Dros, Imme (text)
Geelen, Harrie (illus.)
Dit is het huis bij de kromme boom
(This is the house near the bent tree)
Amsterdam: Querido, 1997. [30pp]
ISBN 90-214-6044-0
Moving house - Lost/Found - Siblings

When the first-person narrator's little sister is born, his family's house is just too small. They move into the house of the deceased grandmother, taking all their belongings except the boy's little duck in the bathtub. His great sadness disappears when the mailman brings the toy after all. This simple, recognizable tale about loss and restoration, told with a cumulative, rhymed text, is accompanied by magnificent illustrations using thick black outlines and warm pastel colors which radiate a gentle, touching atmosphere. (4+)

231
Ede, Bies van (text)
Thé, Tjong-Khing (illus.)
Malle Matte is zo gek
(Silly Matte is so crazy)
Amsterdam: Leopold, 1997. 87pp
ISBN 90-258-3367-5
Mental illness - Imaginary world - Music

Nine-year old Matte is both mentally and physically handicapped. Because she is slow, clumsy and cannot communicate well, she lives largely in a world of her own. While her mother works in the evenings as a dancer in the café downstairs, Matte listens to the music and repeats the melodies on her piano. But her public performance for the neighbors turns out badly. The author sketches a realistic image of a girl whose handicaps limit her contacts with other people and gives insight into her view of the world. The poetic narrative is well suited to the atmosphere of the story, balanced between fantasy and reality. (10+)

232
Gestel, Peter van (text)
Heymans, Annemie (illus.)
Mariken
<Proper name>
Baarn: De Fontein, 1997. 192pp
ISBN 90-261-1297-1
Miracle play - Middle Ages - Identity - Feral child

Young Mariken grows up alone in a forest, completely isolated from the world. She is found by the peculiar Archibald who teaches her many things, but not enough to survive in the »real world«, where Mariken later comes into contact with many different kinds of people. Often she is just barely able to extricate herself from tricky situations. This novel is based on a little known miracle play from the Middle Ages. Van Gestel gives his own splendidly written interpretation of the story and also helps to introduce this »literary heritage« to young readers. (12+)

233
Hagen, Hans (text)
Hopman, Philip (illus.)
De kat en de adelaar
(The cat and the eagle)
Amsterdam: Van Goor, 1997. 65pp
ISBN 90-00-03167-2
Pakistan - Child/Work - Cat

Day after day eight-year old Farid works on the public bus that his father drives, collecting the fares from the passengers. He has taken over his mother's job because she can't work any longer after an accident. For some time, Farid has seen a black cat everywhere he goes and imagines that it is his mother. Hans Hagen tells a very expressive and balanced story in short sentences and brief chapters. This is a simple engrossing story in which fantasy alternates with reality in a most plausible manner. The reader can empathize with Farid and also get a feeling for everyday life in modern Pakistan. (8+) ✧ ○

234
Hazelhoff, Veronica
Niks gehoord, niks gezien
(Nothing heard, nothing seen)
Amsterdam: Querido, 1997. 83pp
ISBN 90-214-6566-3
Coping behavior - Child abuse - Friendship

Linda, who prefers the name River, is an only child and stays aloof of most people. Her new friend Walt is throughly involved with her parents. Linda's father and Walt are creating a picture book together. By reading between the lines, it becomes evident that Walt is an abused child. Only gradually does River come to realize the truth about her friend. The author gives convincing portraits of the two main characters, their ways of life and thinking. The issue of child abuse is integrated into the story, but not every reader will immediately recognize it. (10+)

235
Lichtveld, Noni (text/illus.)
Anansi tussen god en duivel
(Anansi between God and the devil)
Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, 1997. 93pp
ISBN 90-5637-087-1
Good/Evil

The spider Anansi is a well-known character in the tales of many countries. Sometimes he comes to the rescue of others, sometimes he is a trickster. This collection includes Anansi tales of varying length from many different countries and cultural backgrounds. Lichtveld's retellings include considerable dialogue between the animal protagonists, making it an ideal read-aloud book. The colorful illustrations are rich in detail, extending the text, and inviting closer exploration. (6+) ✧

236
Merle, Ditte (text)
Wolf, Alex de (illus.)
IJsberen en andere draaikonten in de dierentuin
(Polar bears and other fidgeters in the zoo)
Houten: Van Reemst, 1997. 128pp
ISBN 90-410-9024-X
Zoo - Animal care

This is an information book about how animals are kept at the zoo. The author covers the history of zoos, their past designs, and the importance of keeping these animals in captivity active. The book also deals with the care and feeding of animals, reproduction, diseases, births and other topics. The text is very lively and filled with humor, extended by illustrations which also provide considerable information. The book has designed in an attractive, playful way with different fonts and a creative layout. (8+)

☺ Special Mention

237
Mileau, Sofie (pseud. of Carry Slee) (text)
Heymans, Margriet (illus.)
De verborgen prins
(The hidden prince)
Houten: Van Holkema & Warendorf, 1997. 36pp
ISBN 90-269-8923-7
Lesbian - Romance - Eroticism

Inside herself, Lotte hides a second person, a prince who demands to be dressed up in a cape and cap secretly in the attic. One day Lotte's new neighbor, Eva, stands in front of her window, dressed as a princess. Later she persuades Lotte to visit her garden house and begins a ritual which has veiled erotic overtones. Yet Lotte's initiation is not innocent, as Eva turns their relationship into a power struggle, with the naive Lotte in a subservient role. Their fairy tale-like ritual turns malicious when Lotte breaks the barrier between fiction and reality and kisses Eva in the schoolyard. Eva betrays their »lesbian romance« by laughing at Lotte. This is a short story magnificently rendered in a strongly stylized narrative. (11+)

238
Sluyzer, Betty (text)
Hout, Mies van (illus.)
Dierentuin
(Zoo)
Naarden: Kimio, 1997. 19pp
ISBN 90-71368-65-3
Zoo - Animals - Grandfather - Human behavior

A black girl and a white boy visit the zoo together with the boy's grandfather. They observe how the behavior and appearances of the different animals resemble those of human beings. In this simple picture book funny sketches consisting of black outlines filled in with fresh colors on the left-hand pages are set off against short rhyming texts and small colored drawings on the right side, in which the two children comment on what they see. The author and illustrator capture the experiences of the children in a very appealing way. (4+)

Greece

239
Chatzēdakē, Tonia (text)
Andrikopulos, Nikolas (illus.)
Ho peiratēs me ta alliōtika matia
(The pirate with different eyes)
Athēna: Hellēnika Grammata, 1997. [28pp]
ISBN 960-344-348-4
Reading - Writing - Pirate - Book

One of the proudest treasures of the quite likeable pirate Mauroleōn is a large collection of books. One day he shows a letter in a bottle to his girlfriend, the mermaid, and wants her to read it to him. After he confesses that he cannot read at all, she agrees to teach him how to read and write. At the end of his strenous but ultimately successful schooling, he is even able to laugh at the spelling errors in his bottle post, and he takes the books on all his travels from now on. The text is filled with verbal jokes, enhanced by the excellent illustrations of the well-known illustrator, Nikolas Andrikopulos. (4+)

240
Chatzēs, Giannēs (text)
Nachmias, Telēs (photos)
To stoicheio tēs Salonikēs. Sparaxikardia kōmōdia se praxeis treis kai skēnes oses Thelete
(The ghost of Saloniki)
Thessalonikē: Malliarēs Paideia, [ca. 1997]. 48pp
ISBN 960-239-340-8
Shadow theater - Karagiozēs - Ghost - Metamorphosis

The young, talented actor, and author, Giannēs Chatzēs, presents a play from his shadow theater repertory, showing that this storytelling tradition is still very much alive in Greece today. The play tells about a ghost who keeps a young girl prisoner in the white tower of Thessaloniki. In the fairy-tale like ending, the famous Greek folk figure Karagiozēs has to intervene. The book is accompanied by stage photographs of a performance and directions for building a shadow theater stage and puppets. Chatzēs is known both for his performances and his writings about the Greek shadow theater. (5+) ✧

241
Kanakēs, Nikos (text)
Geōrgopulos, Kōstas (illus.)
Ho lophos me tus korydalus
(The hill of larks)
Athēna: Patakēs, 1997. 132pp
(Chelidonia; 45)
ISBN 960-360-991-9
Country life - Everyday life

This collection of quite entertaining short stories depicts episodes of everyday life in the country, a world which is gradually disappearing but still holds charm and significance for the reader. Themes such as friendship, loyalty, helpfulness and also trickery and deception run through the texts. The life and activity of the protagonists are closely connected with their natural surroundings. (8+)

242
Katsama, Helenē
San ta chelidonia
(Like the swallows)
Athēna: Patakēs, 1997. 71pp
(Peristeria; 58)
ISBN 960-600-021-4
Tolerance - Grandfather/Grandson - Seeman - Gypsy - Friendship - Storytelling

This first work of the young, promising author, Helenē Katsama (*1973) is an intensive tale about individuality and tolerance. The young protagonist is very close to his grandfather, a former sea captain, who sometimes drinks a bit too much but tells wonderful, exciting tales. He has always impressed upon his grandson the need to be tolerant of differences. One day the grandfather ignores the signs of stormy weather and goes to sea. The grandson and a gypsy girl, whom he has befriended despite the disapproval of the village, risk their lives in vain to save him. (10+)

✧ books whose content is found contribute to an international understanding among cultures and peoples

○ books with easy-to-read texts with nonetheless complex and high-interest topics

☺ Special Mention

243
Krontēra, Lēda (text)
Liapē, Bally (illus.)
Protē gnōrimia me tus Delphus tu Apollōna
(First encounters with the Apollo Temple in Delphi)
Athēna: Ekdotikē Athēnōn, 1996. 142pp
ISBN 960-213-350-3
Delphi - Greece/Ancient times - Archeology
This is the fourth volume in the series about cultural sites in ancient Greece. It takes the reader to the fascinating landscape and mythology surrounding Delphi and tells, for example, about the religious significance of the competitions held in honor of Apollo. This book tells the history of this holy site from its founding up to the modern day and also offers an excursion into the world of musical instruments.
With its rich assortment of visual documentation, this volume stands out as an all-encompassing survey. The excellent selection of illustratory materials, for which the publisher is well-known, is further proof that children's books can be appreciated by all ages. (9+) ◇

244
Pyliōtu, Maria
Tziapher Giasint Alē
<Proper name>
Athēna: Patakēs, 1997. 170pp
ISBN 960-600-022-2
(Syllogē kyknoi; 26)
ISBN 960-600-022-2
Cyprus - Friendship - Political conflict
This novel by one of Cyprus' best-known authors depicts the effects of the division of Cyprus on the daily life of the younger generation. The friendship between two young woman is put to the test when one of them gives shelter to a young Turkish man (in fact, Kurdish) and falls in love with him before helping him to flee to Germany. Her girlfriend doubts his claim of having a degree in agriculture because of his interest in poetry and the nature reserves on the island and has to decide whether to betray him (and her friend) to the police. Pyliōtu tells an exciting, suspenseful tale against an authentic background. (12+)

245
Simopulos, Dionysēs P.
Ho thanatos tōn astrōn
(The death of the stars)
Athēna: Ereunētes, 1997. 102pp
(Ta mystika tu sympantos)
ISBN 960-368-062-1
Astronomy - Stars
The second volume of the series »Secrets of the universe« by the internationally renown astrophysicist Dionysēs Simopulos describes the origin and death of stars. In the wide selection of color photos and drawings, he presents complicated questions of astronomy such as the significance of mass for the origins and death of stars, what a black hole is, where matter goes when it disappears into a black hole, or what a red giant is, in an easily understandable and humorful manner. (10+)

246
Skiadaresē, Maria E.
Kōnstantinos Kanarēs
<Proper name>
Athēna: Ammos, 1997. 55pp
ISBN 960-202-156-x
Greece/History 1821 - Sea battle - Fire ship - Kanarēs, Kōnstantinos
This book is an interesting account of an episode in the life of Kōnstantinos Kanarēs, a hero of the Greek revolution against the Turks in 1822, who was highly respected even by his enemies and later became a prudent and moderate politician. At the request of a Russian admiral, he relates in the first person his version of the attack which used burning ships set to explode after being tied to the enemy ships - a retaliatory measure following the massacre of Chios in 1822. The well-researched narrative brings a piece of European history alive and is accompanied by excellent visual graphics from several museums and a short biography of Kanarēs. (8+)

247
Zacharopulu, Katerina (ed.)
Tsoklēs, Kōstas (illus.)
Ho hagios Geōrgios kai ho pythōnas
(Saint George and the Python)
Athēna: Kastaniotēs, 1996. [32pp]
(Paichnidi me tēn technē)
ISBN 960-03-1749-6
St. George and the Dragon - Python - Art appreciation - Modern art - Tsoklēs, Kōstas
The editor of the series »Fun with Art«, herself an artist, endeavors to acquaint younger children with contemporary Greek art. In this volume she offers an appreciative portrait of the internationally known artist Kōstas Tsoklēs. It is not only an activity book, but also an opportunity to let children be creative and interact with modern art in an uninhibited manner. (6+)

Hungary

248
Lázár, Ervin (text)
Réber, László (illus.)
A Négyszögletű Kerek Erdő
(The round square forest)
Budapest: Osiris K., 1997. 166pp
ISBN 963-379-256-8
Forest - Animals - Handicap - Tolerance
The quadrature of the circle, the round square forest, is home for seven animals who have all the characteristics and imperfections of human beings. Here in the forest they have taken refuge from the outside world, which, because of their handicaps, does not accept them. In this peculiar world they experience a fairy-tale like existence in which every problem is solved, each individual is loved, accepted, and can accept his own fate. Notable are László Réber's pen-and-ink drawings with simple, but highly expressive lines. (6+)

Iran (Persian)

(Transliteration according to German norms)

249
Ḥasan-zādah, Farhād
Samfūnī-i ḥammām. Maǧmū'a-i dāstān barāy-i nūǧawānān
(Symphonie in the bathroom)
Tihrān: Kitābhā-i Banafša, 1995 (= 1374 h.š.). 88pp
In Arabic letters
ISBN 964-417-004-0
Family - Poverty - Growing up
This volume contains three short stories written in the first person from the point of view of children of poor Iranian families. The first tale by a twelve-year old boy depicts the everyday life of his family, which is permeated by bitter poverty. And yet the slightly ironic, even satirical tone of this story and the others is one of humor and optimism. The focal point of the third story is a twelve-year old girl who learns to trust her own abilities to deal with life's problems. (12+)

250
Rahguḏar, Riḍā (= Muḥammad Riḍā Saršār)
Agar bābā bimīrad
(If father dies)
Tihrān: Daftar-i Našr-i Farhang-i Islāmī, 1994 (= 1373 h.š.). (14th ed.) 44pp
In Arabic letters
no ISBN
Family - Father/Son - Illness - Responsibility
Fourteen-year old Ismaiel lives with his family in a small village far from the city. When his father falls seriously ill, Ismaiel at first only accepts this stroke of fate in his prayers. But when his friend reminds him that praying is of little value without action, they set off together in the middle of winter on a dangerous, adventure-filled mission to get the medicine his father needs. Told in the first person, this story demonstrates the responsibility each individual shares for the entire family. (12+)

Other Languages /Iran (Persian)

251
Ramaḍānī, Muḥāmmad (text)
Banī-Asadī, Muhammad 'Alī (illus.)
Bāġbān, žinirāl, wa 'aṭir-i gul-i surh
(The gardener, the general and the scent of roses)
Tihrān: Surūš, 1994 (= 1373 h.š.). 19pp
In Arabic letters
no ISBN
Jealousy - Rivalry - War - Peace

A rose and its gardener take pleasure in one another day for day. The rose is the happiest rose in the world, he is the happiest gardener. But in the neighboring garden, the same story takes place every day. Jealously and rivalry between the gardeners arise, turning into hate and warfare. The roses and the gardens are heavily damaged, until nature and its healing powers is able to take its course. The men desist from their senseless war and devote themselves again to peaceable gardening. This story about the destructive power of jealousy is illustrated in remarkable pictures done in chalk and gouache. (8+)

Turkey

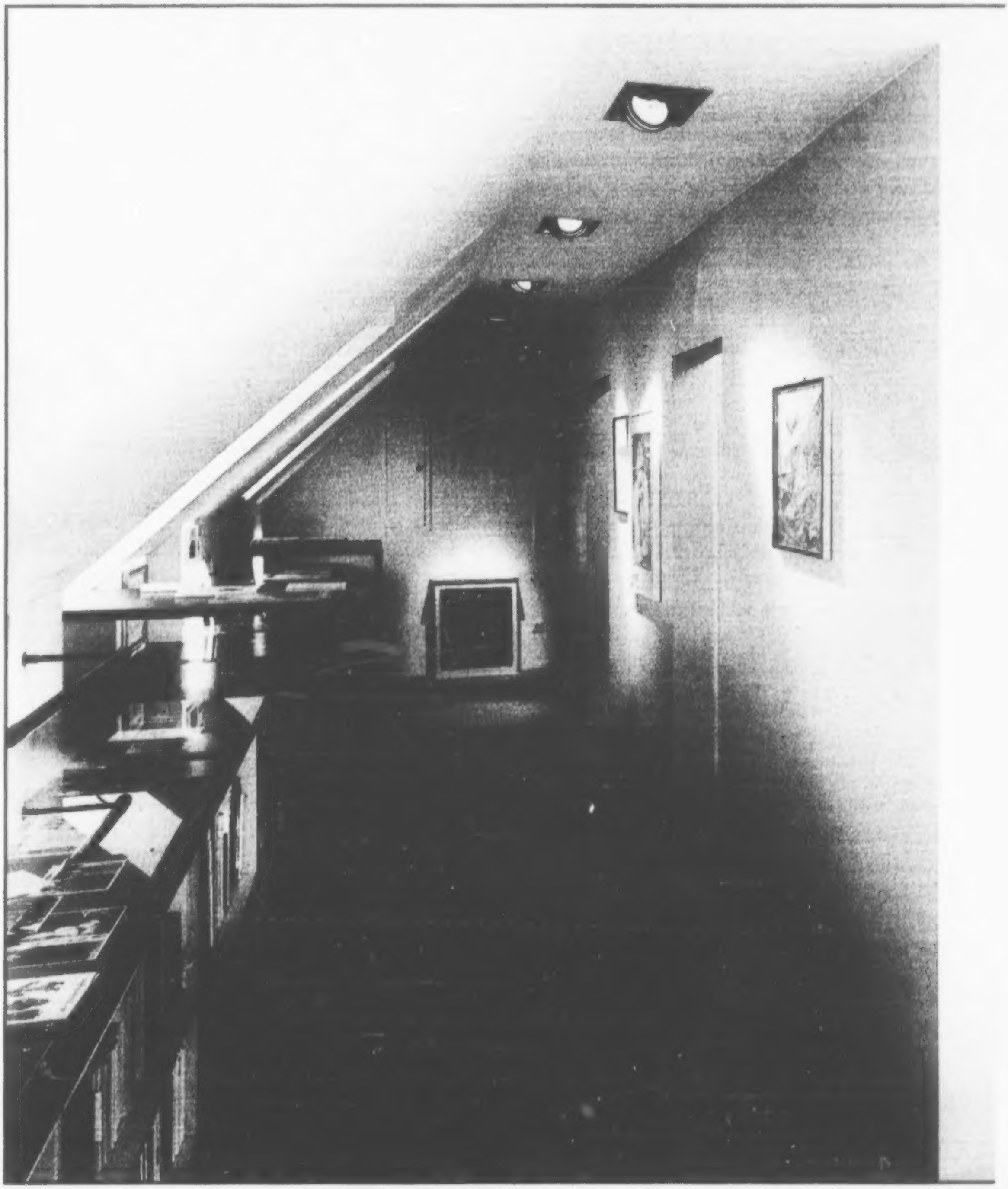
252
Çınaroğlu, Ayla (text)
Berkkan, Yaprak (illus.)
Kanaryamın öyküsü
(The story of my canary)
İstanbul: Uçanbalık Yayınları, 1996. (2nd ed.) 36pp
ISBN 975-8039-42-3
Canary - Man/Animal

One day a family buys a canary and soon the grandmother claims she can understand the language of the bird. She tells the bird's story to her granddaughter, who writes it down here in a naive, but expressive style. The reader learns of the exciting, but also saddening and frightful experiences of the bird with its previous owner. Seen from the perspective of an animal, the description of our human world acquires a special touch. (8+)

253
Gürdal Ünal, Ayfer (text)
Ceylan, Saadet (illus.)
Doğum gününde gelen ağaç
(The birthday tree)
İstanbul: Çınar Yayınları, 1996. 24pp
(Çınar çocuk kitapları)
ISBN 975-348-089-x
Tree - Love of nature - Birthday present

This picture book tells about a boy who is very pleased with the many presents he receives at his seventh birthday party. But he doesn't know what to do with the little walnut tree given to him by one of his friends. He pays little attention to it, because he doesn't know what to do with it. After the tree has been planted in the garden, he recognizes how it differs from all the other presents. The tree will grow and prosper, keeping him company for many years. (5+)

Michael Ende Museum



On February 12, 1998, the International Youth Library opened the **Michael Ende Museum** *on the third floor of one wing of Blutenburg Castle. This is the first literary museum in Germany to be dedicated to an author of children's and youth literature. Along with all editions (30 titles in about 450 first editions in over 40 languages) of Michael Ende's (1929-1995) works, there are also typed manuscripts, sketches, letters, photographs and original illustrations as well as paintings by well-known artists, Ende's personal possessions, furniture, and his private library on display. The establishment of this museum was made possible through the donation of a large part of his estate by his widow, Mrs. Mariko Sato-Ende. His publisher, Thienemann Verlag (Stuttgart) also contributed correspondence and extensive files and records from its press archive.*

The following bibliography includes all published writings for children and young adults by Michael Ende. The titles are listed chronologically by the first publication of the original German edition. Under each title there is a list of the foreign language translations. This gives impressive documentation of the enormous popularity which Michael enjoyed and of the international acceptance his books received.

To make it easier to identify each work, the title of the English edition is given in parentheses; if an English edition has not yet been published, a literal translation of the German title is given in square brackets.

We would also like to draw attention to the only available works edition of Ende's writings. The Japanese publishing house Iwanami began its publication in Japanese in 1996. It is projected to encompass 19 volumes, of which 17 have already appeared.

Michael Ende

Bibliography of his published works for children and young adults

ME 1
Jim Knopf und Lukas der Lokomotivführer
(Jim Button and Luke the engine driver)
Illus. by F.J. Tripp
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1960. 242pp
New editions with illustrations by Reinhard Michl, Stuttgart 1983, and with illustrations by Rolf Rettich, Gütersloh 1983.
Translations: 1962: Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain (Spanish), Sweden; 1963: Great Britain; 1974: Japan; 1975: Turkey; 1983: Spain (Catalan); 1985: Denmark, Portugal; 1986: Yugoslavia (Serbo-Croatian); 1988: Albania, Brazil, Norway; 1990: Republic of China, Hungary, USA; 1992: Greece; 1996: Iran, Republic of Korea, Slovenia; 1997: Czech Republic

ME 2
Jim Knopf und die Wilde 13
[Jim Button and the Wild 13]
Illus. by F.J. Tripp
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1962. 254pp
New editions with illustrations by Reinhard Michl, Stuttgart 1983, and with illustrations by Rolf Rettich, Gütersloh 1983.
Translations: 1963: The Netherlands, Spain (Spanish); 1975: Japan; 1985: Denmark; 1983: Spain (Catalan); 1986: Israel, Italy, Sweden; 1989: Norway; 1990: Republic of China, Greece; 1993: Brazil; 1996: Republic of Korea, Slovenia

ME 3
Das Schnurpsenbuch
[nonsense title for this book of nonsense rhymes]
Illus. by Siegfried Wagner
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1969. [120pp]
Revised and expanded edition with illustrations by Rolf Rettich, 1979.
Translations: 1987: Japan, Spain (Spanish); 1994: Italy

ME 4
Tranquilla Trampeltreu die beharrliche Schildkröte
[Tranquilla Truetrodder, the persistent turtle]
Illus. by Marie-Luise Pricken
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1972. [28pp]
New edition with illustrations by Manfred Schlüter and musical score by Wilfried Hiller, 1981.
Translations: 1977: Belgium (French, Dutch); 1979: Japan; 1981: South Africa (Afrikaans); 1983: Spain (Spanish); 1987: Japan; 1988: Argentina, Italy; 1990: Spain (Galician)

ME 5
Momo oder Die seltsame Geschichte von den Zeit-Dieben und von dem Kind, das den Menschen die gestohlene Zeit zurückbrachte
(Momo) (The first English edition appeared as: The grey gentlemen)
Illus. by Michael Ende
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1973. 269pp
New edition with illustrations by Claus Danner, München 1996.
Translations: 1974: Great Britain, Italy; 1975: The Netherlands; 1976: Japan; 1977: Brazil, Finland, Republic of Korea, South Africa (Afrikaans); 1978: Poland, Yugoslavia (Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian); 1979: Czechoslovakia (Slovakian, Czech), Spain (Spanish); 1980: France, Sweden; 1981: Denmark; 1982: Bulgaria, Iceland, USSR (Lithuanian, Russian); 1983: Israel; 1984: Greece, Iran, Portugal, Turkey; 1985: USSR (Ukrainian); USA; 1986: Hungary, Norway; 1987: People's Republic of China, Mexico, USSR (Latvian); 1988: Spain (Catalan, Galician); 1990: Republic of China; 1991: Romania; 1992: Georgia; 1994: Estonia; 1995: Brazil, Denmark (Faeroese), Iran, Spain (Basque), Thailand; 1997: Germany (Arabic), Sri Lanka

ME 6
Das kleine Lumpenkasperle
[The little rag puppet]
Illus. by Roswitha Quadflieg
Stuttgart: Urachhaus, 1978. [28pp]
Reissued Stuttgart, 1996.
Translations: 1977: Japan; 1983: France; 1996: Belgium (Dutch), Denmark; 1997: Norway

ME 7
Lirum, Larum, Willi Warum. Eine lustige Unsinngeschichte für kleine Warumfrager
[Lilly, Lie, Willy Why. A funny nonsense story for little why-askers]
Illus. by Roswitha Quadflieg
Stuttgart: Urachhaus, 1978. [34pp]
New edition with illustrations by Bernhard Oberdieck, Stuttgart 1995.
Translations: 1996: Norway

ME 8
Das Traumfresserchen
(The dream-eater)
Illus. by Annegert Fuchshuber
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1978. [28pp]
Translations: 1978: Great Britain, Sweden; 1979: Belgium (French, Dutch), Denmark, Finnland; 1980: Spain (Catalan, Spanish); 1981: Japan; 1984: USA; 1992: Italy; 1993: Brazil, Norway; 1995: Greece

ME 9
Die unendliche Geschichte
(The neverending story)
Illus. by Roswitha Quadflieg
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1979. 428pp
Translations: 1981: Denmark, Italy, Sweden; 1982: Finland, Japan, The Netherlands; 1983: Great Britain, Mexico, Norway, USA; 1984: Canada, France, Israel, Portugal; 1985: Greece, Hungary, Spain (Spanish), Yugoslavia (Serbo-Croatian); 1986: Poland, Turkey; 1987: Czechoslovakia (Czech), Romania; 1988: Argentina, People's Republic of China, Egypt (Arabic), Spain (Catalan); 1989: Iran; 1990: Bulgaria, Spain (Basque, Galician); 1991: Brazil, Republic of China, Thailand; 1992: Russia; 1993: Latvia; 1995: Albania, Croatia (Serbo-Croatian), Lithuania; 1996: Estonia

ME 10
Der Lindwurm und der Schmetterling oder Der seltsame Tausch
[The dragon and the butterfly or The curious exchange]
Illus. by Manfred Schlüter. With musical score by Wilfried Hiller
Stuttgart; München: Thienemann, 1981. [36pp]
Translations: 1984: Spain (Spanish); 1987: Japan; 1994: Norway

ME 11
Die Schattennähmaschine
[The shadow sewing machine]
Illus. by Binette Schroeder
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1982. [64pp]

ME 12
Das Gauklermärchen.
Ein Spiel in sieben Bildern sowie einem Vor- und Nachspiel
[The juggler's tale. A play in seven scenes with a prologue and an epilogue]
Stuttgart: Edition Weitbrecht, 1982. 100pp
Translations: 1983: Denmark; 1984: Japan; 1986: Spain (Spanish); 1988: Italy; 1995: Spain (Galician)

ME 13
Der Spiegel im Spiegel. Ein Labyrinth
(Mirror in the mirror)
Illus. by Edgar Ende
Stuttgart: Ed. Weitbrecht, 1984. 329pp
Re-issued 1994.
Translations: 1984: Denmark; 1985: Japan; 1986: Brazil, Great Britain, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain (Spanish); 1987: Norway, Sweden; 1988: France, Israel; 1989: Greece; 1995: Hungary

ME 14
Norbert Nackendick oder Das nackte Nashorn
[Norbert Fatneck or The naked rhinoceros]
Illus. by Manfred Schlüter
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1984. [28pp]
New edition with illustrations by Reinhard Michl 1987.
Translations: 1984: Denmark; 1986: Spain (Spanish); 1988: Belgium (Dutch), Japan, Sweden; 1989: France, Italy; 1995: Norway; 1996: Turkey

ME 15
Filemon Faltenreich
[Filemon Wrinkled <proper name>]
Illus. by Christoph Hessel
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1984. [32pp]
Translations: 1984: Japan; 1986: Sweden; 1987: Spain (Spanish); 1990: Italy

ME 16

Der Goggolori. Eine bairische Mär.
Stück in acht Bildern und einem Epilog
[The Goggolori <proper name>. A Bavarian tale.
Play in eight scenes with an epilogue]
Stuttgart: Edition Weitbrecht, 1984. 159pp
Translations: 1985: Japan, Spain (Spanish)

ME 17

Ophelias Schattentheater
(Ophelia's shadow theatre)
Illus. by Friedrich Hechelmann
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1988. [26pp]
Translations: 1988: Denmark, Finland, Germany (English), Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain (Spanish), Sweden; 1989: Australia, Great Britain, USA; 1992: Brazil; 1995: Greece

ME 18

Der satanarchäolügenialkohöllische Wunschpunsch
(The night of wishes, or The satanarchaeolidealcohellish notion potion)
Illus. by Regina Kehn
Stuttgart; Wien: Thienemann, 1989. 237pp
Translations: 1989: Spain (Catalan, Spanish); 1990: Denmark, Italy, Republic of Korea, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Spain (Galician); 1991: Finland, Greece, Slovenia; 1992: Japan, Portugal, USA; 1993: Czech Republic, Great Britain, Israel, Hungary, Turkey; 1995: Republic of China; 1996: Brazil

ME 19

Die Vollmondlegende
[The legend of the full moon]
Illus. by Binette Schroeder
München: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, 1989. 31pp
New edition: Stuttgart: Weitbrecht, 1993.
Translations: 1994: Japan; 1995: Italy, Spain (Catalan, Spanish)

ME 20

Die Geschichte von der Schüssel und vom Löffel
[The story of the key and the spoon]
Illus. by Tino
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1990. [64pp]
Translations: 1990: Denmark; 1991: Japan; 1992: Israel, Italy, Republic of Korea, Mexico; 1993: Spain (Spanish); 1995: France

ME 21

Lenchens Geheimnis
[Lenchen's secret]
Illus. by Jindra Čapek
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1991. 62pp
Translations: 1991: Denmark, Spain (Spanish); 1992: Italy, Japan, Spain (Catalan); 1996: Brazil

ME 22

Der lange Weg nach Santa Cruz
(The long way to Santa Cruz)
Illus. by Regina Kehn
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1992. 62pp
Translations: 1992: Denmark, Italy; 1993: Japan, Norway, Sweden, Spain (Catalan); 1994: Spain (Spanish); 1995: Spain (Galician), Turkey

ME 23

Der Teddy und die Tiere
[Teddy and the animals]
Illus. by Bernhard Oberdieck
Stuttgart; Wien: Thienemann, 1993. [32pp]
Translations: 1993: Belgium (Dutch), Denmark; 1994: Japan; 1995: Spain (Catalan, Spanish)

ME 24

Die Zauberschule und andere Geschichten
[The magician school and other stories]
Illus. by Bernhard Oberdieck
Stuttgart: Thienemann, 1994. 272pp
Translations: 1995: Norway, Spain (Catalan, Spanish), Turkey; 1996: Hungary, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands; 1997: Brazil

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13+ years: 3, 16, 113, 121, 123, 131, 148

14+ years: 29, 38, 50, 81, 112, 116, 153, 201, 209

Impressum

The White Ravens 1998
A Selection of International
Children's and Youth Literature

Editor: Dr. Barbara Scharioth

Editorial work: Jochen Weber
Translation: Martha Baker

Layout: Edda Greif
Cover photo: Dr. Barbara Scharioth
Illustration (p. 1): Helme Heine
© Middelhauve Verlag
Typesetting: Thomas Pleiner
Printed by: Danuvia Druckhaus
Neuburg

This publication is available from:
Internationale Jugendbibliothek
Schloss Blutenburg
D-81247 München
Germany
Tel.: (+49-89)8912 11-0
Fax: (+49-89)81 17553
E-mail: bib@ijb.de

The publication of this catalogue was supported by the German Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Bavarian Ministry of Culture and the City of Munich.

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